

DAILY REPORT

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MITI CHIEF TAKES SENATE RESOLUTION 'SERIOUSLY'

OW200409 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO -- Hajime Tamura, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) minister, said Friday that he takes seriously the U.S. Senate's unanimous resolution Thursday calling for retaliatory actions against Japanese semiconductor makers allegedly engaged in dumping practices. Tamura told a press conference that the resolution reflected the tension and suspicion in Congress against Japanese export and sales practices abroad.

Tamura said that cooperation in the international community is vitally needed now as there have been some practices conducted by Japanese firms overseas that are contrary to business morals.

Touching on alleged dumping in Hong Kong of semiconductor chips by Oki Electric Industry Co., Tamura said he had already been briefed on the matter from Oki as it is currently under investigation. Tamura said if Oki was found guilty of dumping, he regrets it was done the incident in the wake of rising trade protectionism in the U.S. Congress. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, officials of Japanese semiconductor firms also said they were seriously concerned about the effects of the U.S. Senate resolution. The makers will follow MITI's guidance calling for limited production of 256-kilobit semiconductor DRAM (dynamic random access memory) chips, the officials said.

ACADEMIC, BUSINESS FIGURES TESTIFY ON SALES TAX

OW191211 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO -- Sales tax, a central factor in the governments plan to overhaul Japans present tax system, -- dominated the first of two days of public hearings on the fiscal 1987 budget in the lower house Budget Committee Thursday. Representatives of the business and academic communities took to the floor of the Budget Committee to argue for and against the new tax plan and the sales tax, a topic which has spurred widespread opposition among consumer and small merchant groups.

As first speaker, Eiji Suzuki, head of the Tax System Committee under the influential Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), urged the government to proceed with the first concise tax reform plan in 38 years. He said that the ongoing controversy over tax system reform has been limited to the single issue of sales tax, overshadowing what he said was a crucial factor -- the decision to cut income and corporate income taxes.

The new plan, approved by the cabinet of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in late December and originally slated to pass through the Diet in the current session, calls for income and corporate tax cuts (to be carried out over a three-year period beginning 1987) to be counterbalanced with a 5 percent sales tax which would take effect January 1988.

Nagoya City University professor Tadashi Ushijima, however, said the government moved too rapidly on the sales tax issue, adding that the British Government spent three years outlining the details of its value-added tax to the populace. He also said that introduction of sales tax will put an added burden on the taxpayer and create disparity between those in lower and higher income brackets.

Seigo Yamada, secretary general of the Japan private sector trade union council (Zenminrokyo), slammed the sales tax plan as unfair and called for its elimination.

Other speakers taking an opposition stance against the tax plan claimed the government will be introducing large-scale indirect taxes which will hinder rather than boost expansion of the domestic economy.

The 1987 budget also came under attack on the issue of increased defense spending. Keio University professor Fuji Kamiya slammed the government's plan to hike defense outlays in the new budget over the 1-percent-of-GNP ceiling set in 1976. Budget Committee deliberations aimed at passing through the 1987 budget have been repeatedly stalled by opposition parties demanding that the government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party drop the plan to introduce a sales tax.

NAKASONE U.S. VISIT TO OFFSET PROTECTIONISM

OW191331 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Thursday he hoped to use the holiday period at the end of April to visit Washington, according to government officials. Nakasone reportedly reaffirmed his plan to visit the United States when he met with Vice Foreign Minister Kensuke Yanagiya. Officials added that Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari has decided to request Japanese Ambassador in Washington Nobuo Matsunaga to return to Tokyo by late March in order to prepare Nakasone for the Washington meeting.

The ambassador will be expected to brief the government on the latest U.S. developments concerning upcoming protectionist trade bills aimed at curbing Japanese imports.

Foreign Ministry officials, who view a U.S. visit by Nakasone as a timely strategy to offset protectionist legislation, said the same day that preparations to set an itinerary for Nakasone's U.S. visit are already underway.

ENVOY TO U.S. TO RETURN, REPORT ON CRITICISM

OW191149 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO -- Japan's Ambassador to Washington Nobuo Matsunaga will return home at the end of this month or early next month to brief Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari on the growing criticism against Japan in the U.S. Congress, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. The official said he wants Matsunaga to meet with a host of leaders to report on the strains in U.S.-Japan economic relations.

BANK OF JAPAN NOT TO REDUCE DISCOUNT RATE AGAIN

OW180959 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO -- The Bank of Japan has no plan to carry out another cut in the official discount rate, a central bank official said Wednesday.

The official made the remark to quell speculation that the central bank may cut its key lending rate along with pump-priming measures the government is to announce probably in early April.

The central bank cut its discount rate -- charged on its loans to commercial banks -- by 0.5 percentage points to an all-time low of 2.5 percent per annum last February 23. It was the fifth cut since the beginning of the year to prop up the Japanese economy.

Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, told a press conference last week that the central bank would not cut its key lending rate even if the United States and West Germany reduce their rates. Sumita said Japan's discount rate is already low enough.

The official, who declined to be named, said "If there is anyone in business who thinks the central bank will cut the rate further, they should change their ideas." The official's statement was taken to mean that Japanese business is placing too much emphasis on investing in financial markets and too little on capital investment and production activities, central bank sources said.

Touching on the announcement Tuesday of February's high money supply level, the official said the central bank will closely watch the stock of money but currently money levels were not thought to be so high as to risk inflation. "Despite lower wholesale and consumer prices the high level of money supply should not cause inflation in the future," the official said.

The Bank of Japan said in a preliminary report that the money supply grew 8.8 percent in February over a year ago, up from January's 8.6 percent and the highest since last September's 8.9 percent. Central bank officials attributed the higher growth in February to an increase in currencies and deposits in preparation for settlement of active stock purchases amid lowered interest rates.

Commenting on the yen's advance to 151 yen to the dollar for the first time in one and a half months, the official brought up the "firm" agreement to coordinate stable foreign exchange rates at the Group of Seven, minus Italy, meeting of finance experts in Paris February 22.

TOYOTA, NISSAN SUFFER EXPORT DROPS IN FEBRUARY

OW170821 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO -- Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday its motor vehicle exports in February fell 3.8 percent from a year ago to 141,895 units due to sluggish shipments to North America, Oceania and the Middle East. The February total included 85,164 cars, off 8.9 percent, and 56,731 trucks and buses, up 5.2 percent, the automaker said.

Toyota said, however, domestic sales of passenger cars, trucks and buses jumped 2.2 percent to reach 142,248 units, a record for February, topping the previous high of 139,171 units set a year ago.

Production of motor vehicles in February sagged 4.4 percent to 296,965 units, Japan's biggest automaker reported.

Nissan Motor Co., the nation's second largest, said its motor vehicle exports in February declined 15.4 percent to 101,374 units. Nissan's domestic sales rose 0.8 percent to 84,240 units and local production climbed 9 percent to 207,823 units.

PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON U.S. DIPLOMATIC STANCE

SK191050 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a press conference for domestic and foreign reporters at the People's Palace of Culture on 19 March in connection with U.S. measures to ease its restrictions on contacts with us. The portrait of the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song was respectfully placed in front of the site of the press conference. Present at the press conference were reporters of NODONG SINMUN, KCNA, the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, and other publication and press organisations in Pyongyang; foreign reporters in our country; and publication-related functionaries of embassies of various countries.

The director of the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs first spoke at the press conference in connection with the release of a statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Begin recording] First of all, I express my thanks to various domestic and foreign reporters for sincerely participating in today's press conference.

The United States recently officially expressed its position that it will ease restrictions on contacts with us and will allow and encourage U.S. diplomats to have contacts and conversations with our diplomats to a limited extent. In connection with this, the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released a statement by its spokesman to express our position. [passage omitted on text of Foreign Ministry statement]

As has been clearly stated in the statement, it is the consistent stand of our republic's government to solve various kinds of problems entangled in a complicated manner concerning the situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiations and by peaceful means.

Proceeding from such a stand, we have stated that we are willing to respond, with goodwill, to the propositions of the U.S. side to partially ease the restrictions which have been imposed on us to date within limits and have contacts and conversations with out country's officials.

Our stand as such amply reflects the aspirations and hopes of not only all the Korean people in the North and South, but also of the peace-loving people in the world who hope for easing tension on the Korean peninsula and for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

I would like to ask that both you domestic and foreign reporters pay deep attention to the stand of the republic's government as reflected in the statement issued by the spokesman for our Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Moderator] If anyone has any more questions, let us have them.

[Central Broadcasting Committee reporter] Would you please tell us what kinds of problems will be discussed in contacts between Korean and U.S. diplomats?

[Press Bureau director] Concerning the major problems that would have to be discussed in Korea-U.S. talks, we have repeatedly made clear our stand before the world. For this reason, I believe that our stand has already been made known well to the world.

I believe that the U.S. side has its own problems to discuss in the Korean-U.S. talks. Also, they hinted at some of them this time.

I think that the Korean-U.S. talks should not set limits only to problems that any one party to the talks want to discuss. Instead, the two parties should freely raise problems they mutually want to discuss and then discuss them. If this happens, it is my belief that both sides can put mutual misunderstandings aside and narrow the differences [chaitchomul chulyonagada]. We believe that in this way the Korean-U.S. talks and contacts can become productive ones.

It is our belief that regardless of whatever problems are to be discussed in the Korean-U.S. contacts and talks, these contacts and talks should not be directed in a direction of fabricating two Koreas by encouraging cross-contacts and cross-recognition, which run counter to the aspirations of all the Korean people and the peace-loving people in the world, who hope for Korea's reunification.

Let me have other questions.

[KCNA reporter] Our hope to lead the talks in a diverse way has been expressed in the statement. Would you tell us what this means?

[Press Bureau Director] Our stand is that the contacts, the fields of talks, the contents of the talks, and all problems should not be artificially limited, but instead discuss broadly any problems necessary and useful for solving Korean-U.S. relations without limits.

Of course, we do not expect that such things will be achieved at one stroke. However, if the two sides earnestly advance the contacts and talks step by step in a sincere manner, we expect that the contacts and talks can be led in such a direction.

Let me have more questions, if you have them.

[Moderator] If there are no more, we will now close today's press conference. [End recording]

PYONGYANG STILL URGING PEACE PROPOSAL, RESPONSE

SK200227 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0550 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Unattributed talk: "Sincere Efforts To Realize a New Peace Proposal"]

[Text] Recently, the premier of the State Administration Council and the minister of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK sent a third letter to the South Korean side concerning the realization of the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks. In the letter, our side stressed, once again, the pressing and urgent need to realize our peace proposal and put forward new, epochal initiatives by taking into consideration to opinions expressed to date by the South side.

In the letter, our side stated that, in view of the situation that currently prevails between the North and South and in view of the primary need to successfully push ahead with North-South talks, it is reasonable to first hold high-level North-South political and military talks and then reopen the various forms of suspended talks by creating an atmosphere for the talks.

However, it is also possible, should the South Korean side insist, to hold high-level North-South political and military talks, as we have proposed, while simultaneously reopening preliminary contacts for the North-South parliamentary talks, the North-South economic talks, and the North-South Red Cross talks.

We also stated that although the construction of our Kungangsan power plant concerns nothing with which to take issue, as it is a peaceful construction, it can be discussed in the high-level North-South political and military talks, along with issues we have already raised, should the South side remain suspicious. Also, we stated that if high-level North-South political and military talks are held and conducted successfully, an atmosphere favorable to talks between persons in highest authority would also be created and, with preparatory work vigorously pressed forward, talks between persons in highest authority could be held within the shortest possible time.

Our initiative is another expression of our sincere, peace-loving efforts toward eliminating the acute political and military confrontation between the North and South and improving relations between the two sides through dialogue and negotiations at any cost.

The great leader Comrade Kim-Il-song has taught: To solve the pressing problem that arises before anything else in realizing national reunification, we consider it necessary to hold high-level North-South political and military talks.

As known, in his historic policy speech delivered during the first session of the Eighth SPA of the DPRK convened toward the end of last year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, based on his deep analysis of the grave situation that prevails in our country, put forward anew an important proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks. This epochal measure is a very reasonable and practical measure for national salvation as it is capable of eliminating the political confrontation and military tension between the North and South that are aggravated with the passage of time and of producing a new breakthrough toward peace in the country and independent and peaceful reunification.

The serious distrust and confrontation that now exist between the North and South come mostly from the state of political and military confrontation. Dissolving them and creating an atmosphere of trust depends largely on efforts by those who hold real political and military power. Proceeding from this, we sent a letter on 11 January proposing to the South side high-level North-South political and military talks to discuss measures to eliminate the immediate political and military confrontation and to ease military tension.

In the letter, our side proposed that the date of the talks be set at 27 January, in view of the seriousness and urgency of the discussion of the problems; that the site of the talks be in either Tongilgak in the area of our side in Panmunjom or in the Peace House in the area of the South Korean side; and that the delegations be formed with 7 or 9 persons in authority and those who hold real military power with officials of vice premier class as the heads and officials of army chief of staff level as the deputy heads so as to allow them to smoothly discuss and solve the political and military problems raised by both sides.

Such contents, as explained in the letter, were very reasonable and fair and just in view of the demands of the prevailing situation and in view of the method of conducting the talks. Since we sent the letter, we have made every sincere effort possible to realize the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks.

On 21 January, the 10th day after we sent the letter, we called on the South to affirmatively respond to our proposal for peace talks at an early date through a joint statement by spokesmen for our State Administration Council and Ministry of the People's Armed Forces. Following this, on 30 January we sent a second letter dated 28 January to the South.

In the second letter, we expressed our regret over the fact that the high-level North-South political and military talks had not been held as scheduled because the South had failed to respond to our sincerity with sincerity and had failed to give an answer until after the date designated for the talks and demanded that the South side take 20 days to study our proposal and then decide on the first date for holding high-level North-South political and military talks.

Nevertheless, the South has taken a very insincere attitude toward such a sincere and earnest effort on our part. The South side did not accept the letters on the days we presented them, instead postponed the occasion. Upon receiving the letters, they babbled about the resumption of talks that have already been established or talks between persons in highest authority only, instead of showing a positive attitude toward our proposal.

In view of the pressing nature of the situation that prevails between the North and South and in view of the primary need to successfully push ahead with North-South talks, it is reasonable to first discuss and solve problems designed to eliminate the current state of political and military confrontation, and after rendering the atmosphere favorable to talks, reopen the various suspended talks. This is a serious lesson learned from talks conducted in the past.

However, the south Korea authorities have not only insisted on unconditionally reopening talks that have already been established and on holding talks between persons in highest authority while ignoring such facts, they have also rendered the situation in the country more acute by conducting the extremely adventurous "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise against the northern half of the republic with the United States since February.

Although we have explained on several occasions that the construction of the Kungangsan power plant is peaceful construction, they have recently gone so far as to stage a farce called a groundbreaking ceremony for a counterdam to the Kungangsan power plant.

The anticommunist confrontation and military commotion being kicked up in South Korea worsen relations between the North and the South, while adding great obstacles to national reunification. If such a course of development is allowed to continue, the distrust between the North and the South will grow, confrontation will become exacerbated by the day, and the situation could develop in a direction toward another war breaking out in our country.

Under such circumstances, our side has showed our maximum goodwill and generosity in our third letter out of serious consideration to overcome the current obstacles and create a phase favorable to peace and peaceful reunification. This time our proposal reflects our patriotic stand and peace-loving will toward improving relations between the North and the South by arranging dialogues designed to eliminate the political and military confrontation between the North and the South at any cost.

The South side has no reason or excuse to refuse our proposal for peace talks. If the South side is really concerned about easing tension, creating an atmosphere of trust within the nation, and improving North-South relations, it should accept our proposal at an early date. We will watch to see what attitude the South will adopt in the days to come.

'TEAM SPIRIT' PREPARATIONS ON OKINAWA CONDEMNED

SK191156 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Dangerous Military Moves"]

[Text] Today the U.S. imperialists are further increasing the danger of war -- the danger of a nuclear war -- on the Korean peninsula while expanding the criminal "Team Spirit-87" war exercise.

According to a report, the U.S. imperialists had the Blue Ridge, the flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet; the Okinawa, a helicopter carrier; and the Houston, a nuclear submarine carrying Tomahawk cruise missiles, call at White Beach, Okinawa, for "Team Spirit-87". They also dragged in E4-B aircraft, which command strategic operations in the air in time of a nuclear war, and EC-135 aircraft to Kadena Air Base.

The U.S. imperialists openly propagandize that the E4-B aircraft is a strategic operational airplane in which the state leaders including the U.S. President ride and command a nuclear war while airborne during a total nuclear war.

Meanwhile, the A-2 Skyhawk aircraft which flew into Kadena Air Base from Iwakuni Air Base had installed a small mock nuclear bomb called "BDU-33" beneath their wings and are running amok with flight exercises, including night flights.

Such a noisy commotion in Okinawa shows that "Team Spirit-87" has entered a more dangerous stage, and that this war exercise is designed for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula. Assuming the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula as a fait accompli, the U.S. imperialists have actively pushed ahead with their reckless nuclear war plan.

Because of the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists, South Korea long ago was reduced to a nuclear advance base in which more than 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed. Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists deployed neutron bombs -- which are called weapons of the devil -- and special nuclear destruction bombs in South Korea and are continuously dragging in nuclear firing means such as Lance missiles.

Thus, the density of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea is four times higher than that in the NATO areas. The U.S. imperialists are staging the reckless "Team Spirit-87" war exercise in South Korea by mobilizing the enormous number of more than 200,000 troops, with which they can carry out a complete modern war, and by mobilizing the most modern war equipment including nuclear weapons.

Through "Team Spirit", the U.S. imperialists are attempting to achieve their ambition for northward invasion at any time by having the rascals of their aggressive forces become acquainted with the use of nuclear weapons. That the U.S. imperialists stage the war exercise by dragging aircraft to control a nuclear war from the air and aircraft in which mock nuclear bombs had been installed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa during the course of "Team Spirit-87" proceeds from such an aim.

Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists showed boisterous military moves in military bases on Okinawa, which is close to the Korean peninsula. This shows that the rascals are using Okinawa as a strategic nuclear base, an offensive base, a relay base, and a logistics base for invading Korea.

Thus, foreign news reports noting the busy moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in Okinawa again remind the people of the dangerous nature of Okinawa as a key base for nuclear strategy. That the U.S. imperialists are staging a war exercise by mobilizing even the aircraft which command a nuclear war and aircraft in which mock nuclear bombs were installed is an event unseen in history of "Team Spirit" and is an extremely dangerous exercise.

All this shows that the frenzy of the U.S. imperialists for nuclear war has reached an extreme point and that the rascals are nuclear warmongers who will never hesitate to drive mankind into nuclear calamity to achieve their aggressive ambition.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists claimed that the "Team Spirit" war exercise is designed for defense and is an annual event. This is a shameless trick to conceal the offensive and aggressive, nature of "Team Spirit". Such sophism will only arouse greater curses and denunciation of the world's people.

The U.S. imperialists should immediately stop the "Team Spirit-87" military exercise, a criminal test nuclear war, and withdraw from South Korea, taking along all their aggressive troops, including nuclear weapons. The U.S. imperialist warmongers should clearly realize that what the war maneuvers will bring them is only their downfall.

MULTIPLE EXERCISES, CHON'S REMARK'S DENOUNCED

SK200515 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0940 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Dialogue between Central Broadcasting Committee correspondents Chong Song-kang and Cho Nam-sik: "Crisis Cannot Be Avoided by the Commotion of Playing With Fire Alone"]

[Text] [First speaker] As you know, with the beginning of the provocative "Team Spirit" war exercise in South Korea, a large number of aggressive armed forces are being transported into South Korea from military bases in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific, are they not?

[Second speaker] The South Korean puppet army and the aggressive forces that occupy South Korea have now been placed on an alert posture. The tense situation on the Korean peninsula has been further exacerbated and is now rushing toward a dangerous phase where it can light the fuse of war at any moment. At such a moment, the fascist military Chon Tu-hwan clique, hopping from place to place across South Korea, has frantically whipped up confrontation and war and even went so far as to kick up such a commotion as "Pangpae-87," an exercise staged on 22 February through 28.

[First speaker] Right. In addition, traitor Chon Tu-hwan, appearing in North Cholla Province not long ago, babbled that with the Olympics just around the corner, someone else might try to disrupt the games and then screamed about the need to strengthen the vigilant posture against communists. In a place called Yonmucae in Nonsan, traitor Chon Tu-hwan babbled about the need to further intensify exercises for confrontation with us.

It is preposterous and impudent for those who are deliberately exacerbating tension by conducting "Team Spirit" -- a nuclear test war, the largest ever staged in history -- while ignoring our realistic proposal for peace talks, to speak of a threat by someone else.

[Second speaker] The threat of invasion and fiery clouds of war come not from the North, where the drumbeat of peaceful construction is loudly heard, but from the South, where "Team Spirit-98" is under way -- a fact widely known to the world.

As known, the puppets conducted the "Pangpae" exercise under the pretext of countering someone else's provocation and mobilized the puppet regular army troops, police force, and civilian forces in the exercise and made them reek of powder. The purpose behind this mobilization sought by the puppet Chon Tu-hwan clique is to provoke a war of northward invasion and to easily mobilize all human and material resources in South Korea toward this end.

[First speaker] Because the puppet Chon Tu-hwan clique is now conducting more than one war exercise at the same time and frantically whipping up confrontation and war fever across the country, the situation on the Korean peninsula has become exacerbated to the extreme.

Behind all the enthusiasm of the Chon Tu-hwan puppets in whipping up war fever amid the gunfire of war exercises is an impure political goal. What the Chon Tu-hwan puppets seek to achieve is a perfect war footing through the war fever and to ease political uneasiness by wielding a fascist military club under the pretext of defending against someone else's provocation.

[Second speaker] Right. In the face of strong opposition and rejection by the South Korean youths, students, and people, the fascist military Chon Tu-hwan dictatorship now finds itself surrounded by foes on all sides.

As is known, the struggle by the youths, students, and people against the U.S. imperialists' reactionary colonial rule in South Korea and the puppet traitor Chon Tu-hwan's scheme to overstay in power is now gathering momentum more than at any previous time. In particular, the people's resentment of the military dictatorship, which has surged forward in the wake of the torture death of Seoul National University student Pak Chong-chol by the puppets, is growing stronger by the day.

[First speaker] You are right. People of all walks of life in South Korea are raising their voices for the military dictatorship to be toppled to wipe out torture. They seem to be preparing for a still greater advance for this purpose.

Stung by this, the military Chon Tu-hwan hooligan clique is now trying to divert the attention of the South Korean people through a powder-reeking war exercise, confrontation, and war commotion, threatening the South Korean youths, students, people by a show of force, and scheming to stop the strong anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle and advance of the South Korean youths, students, and people by forcing on them absolute obedience for the fascist military order.

[Second speaker] Attempting to emerge from a critical crisis through war exercises and confrontation commotion is a foolish and futile dream. The faith and will of the South Korean youths, students, and people, who are determined to find true life on the path of anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle, can never be thwarted by anything.

The frantic war exercise commotion and agitation of confrontation will only lay bare the last-ditch efforts of a dictator who is walking to his grave after being forsaken by the people.

[First Speaker] You are right. Let us finish our talk for now.

KIM HWAN ASSIGNED TO ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

SK200310 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee on the appointment of Comrade Kim Hwan as vice premier of the DPRK State Administration Council:

The DPRK Central People's Committee withdraws Comrade Kim Hwan from the position of chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Committee of the DPRK and appoints him vice premier of the DPRK State Administration Council in charge of chemical and light industries.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK

[Dated] 19 March 1987, Pyongyang

Replaced By Kim Tal-yon

SK200313 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee on the appointment of Comrade Kim Tal-yon chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Committee of the DPRK:

The DPRK Central People's Committee appoints Comrade Kim Tal-yon chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Committee.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK

[Dated] 19 March 1987, Pyongyang

WPK CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER DIES

SK190255 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Obituary issued by the WPK Central Committee and the DPRK Central People's Committee on 17 March]

[Text] Comrade Yun Myong-kun, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee and deputy to the SPA, regrettably passed away at 1730 [0830 GMT] on 17 March 1987 due to a unexpected traffic accident at the age of 59.

Comrade Yun Myong-kun devotedly struggled for socialist economic construction by upholding the wise leadership of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song. The comrade worked to implement our party's economic policy for a long time as a guiding functionary in the economic field by dedicating all of his wisdom and energy. Comrade Yun Myong-qun firmly established the monolithic ideological system of the party and remained boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader until his last moment. Although Comrade Yon Myong-kun has passed away, his merits dedicated to our party and to the revolutionary cause will remain forever.

[Signed] The WPK Central Committee and the DPRK Central People's Committee

[Dated] 17 March 1987

VNS TALK STRESSES NEED FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS

SK191140 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 1000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Unattributed talk from the "Reunification Plaza" feature program: "Tripartite Talks Are the Most Realistic Way of Negotiations To Settle the Question of the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] As known, the North put forth the proposal for tripartite talks in January 1984. Since then, the North has made all sincere efforts for the early realization of tripartite talks. In particular, President Kim Il-song -- the sun of the nation and the lodestar of the fatherland's reunification -- once again called for the holding of tripartite talks in his policy speech at the first session of the Eighth SPA on 30 December last year. He has taught: To guarantee durable peace and provide a precondition for peaceful reunification in our country, tripartite talks must be held between us, the United States, and South Korea.

As can be realized in the president's teaching, the purpose and objective of the North's proposal for tripartite talks are to plant peace in our country, create a precondition for peaceful reunification, and have the North, the United States, and the South meet at a place to settle the question of the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiation and in a peaceful way. Therefore, considering its purpose and objective, the proposal for tripartite talks, it can be said, is a most peace-loving proposal and a most patriotic nation-saving measure. This peace-loving and patriotic proposal must be realized at an early date, regardless of which side put it forth.

Nevertheless, because of the U.S. and South Korean authorities' insincere stand and attitude, tripartite talks have not been realized, through more than 3 years have passed. Moreover, the fascist Chon Tu-hwan group describes the North's proposal for tripartite talks and all other peace-loving proposal and initiatives of the North, including the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, as a false peace offensive, and abuses these proposals and initiatives in its anticommunist campaign against the North. Such a contemptible attitude deriding the masses has earned denunciation by public opinion.

The North's proposal for tripartite talks is fully supported at home and abroad because of its peace-loving and patriotic purpose and objective, and because it is the most realistic way for dialogue to settle the question of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way. Why then is the proposal for tripartite talks the most realistic way of dialogue to settle the question of the Korean peninsula? The respected and beloved President Kim Il-song has taught: Tripartite talks are the most realistic way of dialogue to improve the conflicting Korea-U.S., and North-South relations and to create a precondition without damage to the interests of all parties. As taught by the president, the proposal for tripartite talks is the most realistic way for dialogue to settle the question of the Korean peninsula, because it is to improve the conflicting Korea-U.S., and North-South relations and provide a precondition to peace on the Korean peninsula and its independent and peaceful reunification without damage to the interests of all parties.

As is known, the question of the Korean peninsula, which has become a focal point of international politics and aroused great concern in the international community, has two aspects which are closely linked with one another. One is to alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula, prevent the danger of another war, and preserve peace. The other is to achieve the reunification of the nation, which has been artificially divided.

Here, the question of the reunification is an internal affair which should be settled through North-South dialogue and negotiations. However, this question essentially requires the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea and the end of U.S. domination over, and intervention in, South Korea. As long as foreign troops remain in the country and the domination and intervention by foreign forces continue, the question of the reunification cannot be independently settled according to the principle of national self-determination. Accordingly, to achieve the reunification of the Korean peninsula, such preferential requirements as the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and the ending of U.S. domination and intervention in South Korea must be fulfilled first. However, without U.S. participation, this question cannot be settled.

The question of eliminating the growing danger of a war on the Korean peninsula and providing a guarantee for peace has also been created by the U.S. military occupation of South Korea. Thus, North-South contacts alone cannot settle this question.

The United States is the real ruler in South Korea that exercises all real powers and acts as a master. The United States controls South Korean politics and exercises the prerogative of supreme military command over the South Korean armed forces.

It is none other than the United States that directly organizes and commands dangerous war exercises such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise by deploying 40,000 U.S. troops and 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea. At the same time, it is none other than the United States that instigates the ruling authorities to North-South confrontation.

The United States, the real ruler of South Korea, is to blame for the aggravation of the situation on the Korean peninsula and for the situation which has reached the brink of war. In addition, as a signatory of the Armistice Agreement, the United States sits face to face with the North in Panmunjom. Under these circumstances, if the United States holds no direct dialogue with the North, it is impossible to settle the fundamental question of peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification.

Today, the current authorities follow the U.S. war policy and seek North-South confrontation. This is also the cause of the aggravation of the situation. Therefore, to eliminate military confrontation and alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula, the current authorities, and another responsible party, must also participate in talks. If the three parties -- the North, the United States, and the South -- do not sit face to face, the question of the Korean peninsula cannot be settled. Considering the mutual relations between the concerned parties, the question of the Korean peninsula is, it can be said, a question between the North and the United States, and a question between the North and South. However, because of the close connection between the two questions of the Korean peninsula, the question between the North and the United States and the question between the North and South are closely linked. In other words, the question of the relations between the North and the United States always accompanies the question of the relations between the North and South, and improving North-South relations requires the improvement of relations between the North and the United States. Thus, to settle the two big questions of the Korean peninsula at the same time, the three concerned parties must sit face to face. This is precisely the reason why tripartite talks are the most realistic way of dialogue to settle the question of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way.

Also considering the characteristics and contents of the matters to be discussed, tripartite talks are, it can be said, the most realistic and ideal way of negotiation and the most epochal nation-saving measure. As the agenda items of tripartite talks, the North put forth the questions to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and adopt a North-South declaration of nonaggression. These are the fundamental questions that must be settled for a peaceful settlement of the question of the Korean peninsula.

The Armistice Agreement, as the terminology itself suggests, is a cease-fire agreement. It is not one for a durable peace. To end this precarious state of cease-fire and eradicate the cause of tension, above all, the North and the United States must conclude a peace agreement to guarantee durable peace and withdraw the U.S. troops from South Korea.

So is the question of adopting a North-South declaration of nonaggression. Only when the state of tense North-South military confrontation is eliminated can mutual understanding and trust be deepened and an atmosphere of peaceful reunification be created.

As proposed by the North, if the North and South adopt a declaration of nonaggression by promising not to use arms, not to attack the opposing side, to drastically reduce armies and armaments, and to eliminate the state of military confrontation, this will become a firm guarantee to guarantee peace and security on the Korean peninsula not only for the present but also even following the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea. At the same time, this will eventually pave the way to peaceful reunification.

Thus, tripartite talks are, it can be said, the most realistic and ideal way of negotiation to simultaneously settle the question of guaranteeing peace, the most urgent task for the peaceful settlement of the question of the Korean peninsula, and the question of providing a precondition for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

Our masses, who seek peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, must realize the realistic nature and correctness of the proposal for tripartite talks, and must struggle more unyieldingly against the antinational and anachronistic acts of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan ring in aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula and seeking the permanent division of the nation.

VNS CALLS POLITICAL COMPROMISE U.S. 'PLOT'

SK200133 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Talk by station commentator Yun Chong-won from the "Hour for Compatriots Abroad" program: "Compromise Between the Ruling and Opposition Parties and the United States"]

[Text] The recent political situation for constitutional revision has come to a serious deadlock due to the sharp confrontation between the opposition party's demand for a constitutional revision for the direct presidential election system and the ruling party's demand for a constitutional revision in favor of the parliamentary government system.

The absolute majority of the masses of all strata have demanded that democratization be achieved through a constitutional revision for the direct presidential election system. However, the DJP and the government authorities have been frantic to realize their ambition for a constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system under the mask of a constitutional revision by agreement in a bid to prolong their power.

Concerning the constitutional revision for the parliamentary government system sought by the DJP and the government authorities, it is not only a modified form of the military dictatorial system in which presidential dictatorship is shifted to premier dictatorship, but is also nothing but a deceptive reorganization of the present dictatorial regime in a bid to prolong the political power of the DJP and, thus, to realize the dictatorship of the ruling party again.

As is known to the world, the current fascist Constitution established to maintain the military dictatorial system permanently means more than life to the Chon Tu-hwan ring which has been hellbent in maintaining its political power. This is why, until the early part of last year, the Chon Tu-hwan ring, clamoring about protection of the current constitution, had brutally suppressed with bayonets the opposition party and the masses of all strata calling for a constitutional revision for the direct presidential election. However, the Chon Tu-hwan ring has suddenly come up with a constitutional revision in favor of the parliamentary government system while clamoring about a constitutional revision by agreement through compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. Such a sudden change in attitude of the Chon Tu-hwan ring is due to U.S. manipulation behind the scenes. For the past 45 years since the country was divided, the United States has maintained colonial rule over South Korea through pro-U.S. military fascist regimes while calling itself an ally or friendly nation protecting South Korea.

However, since the Kwangju uprising, our masses have more vigorously turned out to the national salvation resistance against the U.S. imperialists and dictatorship, keenly realizing that the United States is by no means our friendly ally or our protector and that as long as the present military fascist dictatorial regime is left intact, democratization of the society cannot be realized. One of the examples of this is precisely the struggle for the constitutional revision for the direct presidential election system which has been unfolded throughout South Korea as a pan-national movement. Such a struggle of our masses not only has driven the Chon Tu-hwan ring into serious uneasiness and terror, but has also dealt serious blows to the U.S. policy of colonizing and occupying South Korea.

Such being the situation, the United States has concocted the plot for a constitutional revision by agreement through compromise between the ruling and opposition parties in a bid to improve its blemished image among the South Korean masses and to continuously maintain its colonial, military, and fascist rule over South Korea.

The United States has resorted to all sorts of machination and trickery in a bid to realize its plot for compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. Recently, the U.S. ruling circles and Congress have talked about compromise between the ruling and opposition parties in South Korea. In particular, many figures in the U.S. political circles have frequently visited South Korea to persuade the ruling and opposition parties of South Korea to reach a compromise for a constitutional revision by agreement. These facts clearly show how desperately the U.S. authorities are trying to realize their plot for a constitutional revision by agreement.

Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, who visited South Korea on 6 March, expressing his opposition to any attempt to resolve political issues by means of violence or demonstration, babbled that all political issues should be resolved through dialogue and negotiations. William Clark, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, who visited South Korea before Shultz, also babbled the same words.

This is not only a U.S. instruction to the Chon Tu-hwan ring to further strengthen the fascist suppression of the masses struggling for the constitutional revision for democratization, but is also an expression of the sinister U.S. intention to maintain the pro-U.S., colonial, and dictatorial regime and to prolong the Chon Tu-hwan ring's power by turning the present unfavorable political situation in favor of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan ring. Proceeding from such a sinister ambition, the U.S. authorities have manipulated the Chon Tu-hwan ring behind the scenes by stretching out their claws to the current constitutional revision issue, as if they are interested in the movement for democratization in South Korea.

In a nutshell, the U.S. authorities have tried to meld the opposition party into the DJP by dragging it into the National Assembly under the pretext of compromise between the opposition and ruling parties and to break up the united strength of our masses by creating and fanning frictions between the opposition party and off-stage democratic forces. Thus, the U.S. authorities have schemed to block the struggle of the masses for democracy and to invariably perpetrate their policy of colonizing and occupying South Korea. In fact, encouraged by such a cunning trick of the U.S. imperialists, the Chon Tu-hwan ring has frantically resorted to the dirty maneuvers of perpetrating the political operations not only to forcibly pass its bill for constitutional revision for the parliamentary government system in the National Assembly but also to split and break up the NKDP by buying off and threatening some opposition assemblymen. At the same time, the Chon Tu-hwan ring has brutally suppressed the struggle of the masses of all strata for independence, democracy, and reunification, branding it as a procommunist and leftist-leaning act.

In a nutshell, compromise between the ruling and opposition parties that has been noisily clamored about by the Chon Tu-hwan ring is not only part of the U.S.-concocted maneuvers to deceive the masses, but is also one of the vicious smear maneuvers to strengthen U.S. domination over South Korea and to realize the permanent power of the Chon Tu-hwan military fascist ring.

A so-called constitutional revision by agreement through compromise between the ruling and opposition parties that the Chon Tu-hwan ring has clamored about under the manipulation of the United States is nothing but a plot to reorganize the U.S. colonial, military, and dictatorial system.

Compatriots abroad, our masses who have traversed the bloody road of struggle against the U.S. imperialists and dictatorship and for independence, democracy, and reunification for the past 45 years will never be cheated by the U.S. authorities' maneuvers for so-called compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. The U.S. aggressors and the Chon Tu-hwan ring can by no means block the surging struggle of our masses against the United States and fascism and for independence and democracy with their clumsy plot to seek compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. Our masses will smash the deceptive plot to seek compromise between the ruling and opposition parties with their united strength.

AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN REQUESTS RELEASE OF DEFECTOR

SK200041 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Tokyo (YONHAP) -- South Korea's Ambassador to Japan Yi Kyu-ho, Thursday asked Japanese Justice Minister Kaname Endo to allow a North Korean soldier who entered Japan in a defection bid in 1983 to go to Seoul in compliance with his wishes.

The soldier, Sgt. Min Hong-ku, 25, has been detained in Japan for 40 months for illegally entering the country. He escaped from North Korea by stowing away aboard a Japanese ship, the Fujisan Maru No. 18, when it stopped in a North Korean port in 1983.

Yi said that he has received a written petition from Min in which he expressed his wishes to defect to South Korea, a spokesman for the Korean Embassy said.

In the letter, the North Korean was reportedly quoted as saying: "I waited for the past three years. It's long period of time. My wish is that I will be allowed to go to South Korea as soon as possible."

Yi told Endo that Japan's detention of Min over a long period of time violates humanitarian principles, the spokesman said.

He expressed regret that the Japanese Government links the release of the North Korean defector with the fate of the two Japanese crewmen who were aboard the Fujisan Maru at the time of Min's defection. North Korea is holding the two crewmen in detention in retaliation for Min's defection.

Yi said Min's case should be resolved at an early date in accordance with humanitarian principle and international practices.

In response, the Japanese justice minister said he would try to resolve the issue at the earliest possible date.

PARTIES FAIL TO NARROW GAP OVER SPECIAL SESSION

SK200049 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Floor leaders of the three major political parties met yesterday over the proposed convening of a special National Assembly session but failed to reach agreement.

They continued to differ on whether to resume the operation of the Special Constitution Revision Committee [SCRC], which blocked the progress of the talks.

The floor leaders decided to meet again early next week in order to narrow down differences, agreeing on the need for an early opening of the Assembly session to discuss the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue and other issues.

Rep. Yi Han-tong of the ruling Democratic Justice Party demanded that the opposition promise to return to the SCRC in order to resume negotiations on constitutional reform.

The request was rejected by Rep. Kim Hyon-kyu of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party, who said the issue should not be linked with the contemplated opening of the Assembly session.

Noting that his party is slated to reshuffle its line of major posts in a national convention in May, Kim said it would be difficult for his party to return to the committee by that time.

DJP's Yi then proposed that the rival parties call three standing committees of the Assembly -- foreign affairs, trade-industry and agriculture-fisheries -- to discuss issues related to the nation's security and economy.

As agenda items for the committee sessions, he pointed out the recent proposal for premiers' talks between south and north Korea, the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, foreign trade friction and ways of relieving farming households of the burden of debts.

NKDP's Kim declined to accept the proposal, saying that he cannot agree with calling only committee sessions instead of a full session.

Rep. Yang Chong-kyu of the minor opposition Korea National Party suggested that should the three parties fail to agree on a full session, they open five standing committees -- foreign affairs, trade-industry, agriculture-fisheries, economy-science and health-social affairs.

Earlier in the day, the ruling DJP held a meeting of key officeholders and decided to intensify efforts to resume interparty dialogue on the constitutional issue.

The DJP lawmakers agreed that the SCRC should be revived at an early date along with the convening of the Assembly session.

They decided to open standing committees on issues related with the nation's security and economy if the rival parties fail to reach agreement on the convening of a full session.

The contemplated Assembly committees are the foreign affairs, trade-industry and agriculture-fisheries committees.

Party floor leader Yi said, "The NKDP's internal dispute has delayed negotiations on constitutional revision." Thus, we are now more pressed for time.

"Therefore, we will more strongly urge the opposition NKDP to return to the Special Constitution Revision Committee."

Spokesman Sim Myong-po said, "The NKDP seems to be calling for a special Assembly session to shift political attention away from its internal problems. Despite that, we are willing to negotiate."

He stressed, however, that there has been no change in the party's position of seeking to normalize the SCRC's operation along with the convening of an Assembly session.

DJP TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS OVER YI MIN-U IDEA

SK190110 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Democratic Justice Party still considers the "Yi Min-u idea" effective and will continue to seek negotiations over the proposal, said the party spokesman yesterday.

Spokesman Sim Myong-po made the remark while commenting on Tuesday's meeting between opposition New Korea Democratic Party president Yi Min-u and adviser Kim Yong-san.

He said, "We think the opposition NKDP has found a clue for resolving its internal dispute. The agreement reached between Yi and Kim seems to reflect both positions -- one giving priority to democratization and the other calling for direct presidential elections.

"However, we take note of the fact that the Yi Min-u idea should still be considered valid," he added.

Sim said chairman No Tae-u and other senior party lawmakers exchanged views on developments within the opposition party.

"They hope that the NKDP will settle the current dispute at an early date and resume dialogue for revising the Constitution by consensus," he said.

Political sources said rival parties are expected to seek a meeting of the leaders of the three major parties as the NKDP has found a way to settle its internal feud over Yi's proposal.

The sources said the rival camps share the view that if the suspension of interparty dialogue continues, it would make the situation concerning constitutional reform more difficult.

The spokesman also said the senior party officials agreed to consider convening three standing committees of the National Assembly -- foreign affairs, agriculture-fisheries and trade-industry -- to discuss various issues related with the nation's security and economy.

Priority topics would include the government's proposal for premiers' talks between South and North Korea, the increasing trade pressure from the United States and Japan and ways of relieving burden of debts on farming households, Sim said.

He said chairman No instructed floor leader Yi Han-tong to contact opposition counterparts over the opening of the Assembly committees.

NKDP FACTIONS MOVE TO SETTLE INTERNAL DISPUTE

SK200055 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Moves are underway by two major factions in the opposition New Korea Democratic Party to narrow differences over the party's strategy for constitutional reform.

Prospects for an early settlement of the internal dispute are not bright, however, because Kim Tae-chung refuses to endorse the agreement reached Tuesday between Kim Yong-sam and party president Yi.

After the Kim-Yi talks, Kim Tae-chung said the agreement cannot clear up worries whether the party will be able to strengthen its structure to push for constitutional reform featuring direct presidential elections.

Amid the intraparty discord, there are signs that relations between the two Kims, who lead the main opposition party's two largest factions, are deteriorating.

Kim Yong-sam yesterday proposed to meet Kim Tae-chung today to continue discussions on the outcome of his talks with Yi.

Kim Tae-chung rejected the proposal, saying that he will meet Kim Yong-sam Monday as originally scheduled when a regular meeting of the dissident Council for the Promotion of Democracy is held. They co-chair the council.

The proposal was conveyed by Rep. Kim Tong-yong, a former party floor leader who is affiliated with Kim Yong-sam's faction, when he visited Kim Tae-chung at his home.

In a related development, Kim Tae-chung said he will not participate in the proposed three-way talks between Kim Yong-sam, Yi and himself to discuss party affairs.

He made the remarks during a meeting of members of his faction, Minkwonhoe, later in the day.

His remarks was seen as indicating his intention to distance himself from the party to some extent in the coming days.

Party adviser Kim Yong-sam told reporters that after his talks with Kim Tae-chung, he plans to meet Yi again.

The two Kims failed to reach complete agreement on ways of resolving the intraparty discord triggered by Yi's seven-point democratization formula, when they met Wednesday.

The four-point Yi-Kim agreements says that the formula does not imply possible negotiation over the cabinet form of government favored by the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

Kim Tae-chung, however, was said to have complained that the agreement gives an impression that Kim Yong-sam endorsed the controversial formula, suggested by Yi last December.

Referring to Kim Tae-chung's unfavorable response to the agreement, Kim Yong-sam said, "We (Kim and Yi) want to make it clear that there will be no negotiation over the DJP-proposed cabinet system during the rest of Yi's tenure of office and that the party's policy of seeking direct presidential elections will never be damaged."

Aides to Kim Yong-sam said the remarks mean that interparty negotiations over constitutional reform should be conducted under the new NKDP leadership.

Kim Yong-sam said that when he met with Kim Tae-chung, he will explain again the agreement in detail and help promote his understanding of it.

He also said that he will conform to the decisions made between Kim Tae-chung and himself on all matters concerning constitutional reform, the party's national convention in May and resumption of party rallies for district chapter reorganization.

JAIL TERMS DEMANDED FOR NKDP ASSEMBLYMEN

SK191304 Seoul YONHAP in English 1256 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP) -- The Seoul district prosecutors' office Thursday demanded jail terms of two and a half years to three years for two opposition lawmakers for supporting and encouraging an anti-government student demonstration in September 1985. Prosecutor Chong Min-su asked for a three-year jail term for Rep. Pak Chan-chong of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party, and two and a half years for Rep. Cho Sun-hyong, another New Korea Democrat, on charges of breaking the law governing assemblies and demonstrations.

Their case stems from a visit to Korea University here on Sept. 6, 1985, where they encouraged an estimated 1,000 demonstrating students for their cause by chanting seditious slogans and delivering a message to a dissident student leader. Addressing the court, the prosecutor said the two defendants' action was recognized as abetting the demonstrators despite their extreme behavior prompting chaos and threatening social order.

It was believed the first time that the prosecution demanded a jail term for incumbent lawmakers in connection with students' anti-government demonstration.

STUDENTS: CONVENE A 'CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'

SK190107 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] An estimated 300 Songkyunkwan University students held an antigovernment rally on the school campus yesterday, demanding the convocation of a "constituent assembly."

After the rally which started around 1 p.m., the students attempted to march out of the school and clashed with tear gasfiring riot police.

They hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at the riot police.

About 450 riot police were deployed inside the school grounds to prevent the students from marching out of the school.

DEFENSE MINISTER MARKS ARMY ANNIVERSARY

OW190111 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1708 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 18 (MONTSAME) -- Born by the people's revolution, strengthened in the heat of class struggle against internal and external enemies for the freedom and independence of homeland, the Mongolian People's Army (MPA) has constantly proved its adherence to the cause of party, people, socialism and that of communism, said Colonel-Gen. Yondon, MPR minister of defence, in his interview with a MONTSAME correspondent on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the MPA.

The minister noted that the Soviet Union rendered an invaluable assistance in forming and strengthening of the MPA. The servicemen of the two fraternal countries were in one rank in struggle of the Mongolian people for the people's power and in severe battles for the defence of freedom and independence of Mongolia against foreign aggressors. These were the test of fidelity and courage of our servicemen and the witness of their adherence to internationalism and friendship, at the sources of which stood great Lenin and Sukhe Bator, the minister noted.

Over past ten years, thanks to the care and attention taken by the party and government on strengthening the defence capacity of the country, to the great aid given by the Soviet Union, the Mongolian military forces have considerably strengthened and grown in combat and technical terms.

Today more than 80 percent of the MPA complement of officers are the military experts with high and secondary and special education. Most of them are communists and members of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union. These are the people who defend the peace work of the Mongolian people, socialist gains of our country.

BULGARIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS PAY VISIT TO MPR

Altangerel Fetes Delegation

OW190407 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1712 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 March (MONTSAME) -- The talks between the parliamentary groups of the MPR and Bulgaria have been held here.

During the talks the two sides informed each other on the course of implementation of the historic decisions of the 19th MPRP Congress and 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, about the activity of supreme organs of state powers of the two countries, exchanged views on some international issues and problems of bilateral relations.

The two sides stressed with satisfaction that the efforts taken by the USSR and the other socialist countries aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear catastrophe, creating an all-embracing system of international security have great favourable influence on the international political atmosphere.

During the talks the Mongolian and Bulgarian parliamentarians expressed their full support to M. Gorbachev's statement of 28 February, regarding this as an important step towards the realisation of the Soviet programme of turning our planet into nuclear-free and non-violent world.

The same day B. Altangerel, chairman of the Great People's Hural, MPRP CC Politburo member, gave a dinner in honour of the Bulgarian parliamentarians.

Batmonh Receives Dimitrov

AU192056 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural received a Bulgarian parliamentary delegation led by Atanas Dimitrov, deputy chairman of the National Assembly. Jambyn Batmonh expressed satisfaction with the strengthening ties between Mongolia and Bulgaria in all spheres of party, economic, and scientific cooperation. It was stressed at the meeting that the implementation of the Soviet Union's proposal for scrapping intermediate-range missiles in Europe can become an important stage toward the complete elimination of nuclear arms by the end of the century.

BATMONH RECEIVES SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION

OW190403 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1716 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 March (MONTSAME) -- General Secretary of the MPRP CC Presidium, chairman of the MPR Great People's Hural J. Batmonh has received the Soviet delegation headed by General Y.M. Voloshin and had a warm, cordial talks with them. The delegation takes part in the celebration of the 66th anniversary of the MPA.

AFGHAN ENVOY NOTES RECONCILIATION SUCCESS

OW120937 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1702 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 March (MONTSAME) -- Despite the continuing military actions from the part of the most aggressive counterevolutionary groups supported by the USA the process of national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan steadily gains strength, said A. Sarwari, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Afghanistan to the MPR, at the press conference for representatives of Mongolian mass media and foreign journalists accredited in this country.

He pointed out that since the announcement of the unilateral ceasefire in Afghanistan about 20 thousand refugees who had left their homeland mainly trapped by hostile propaganda have returned from abroad. Further he pointed out the concrete examples of how Pakistan and Iran and enemies of April Revolution are trying to obstruct the process of ending the senseless fratricide war.

The course pursued by Afghan leadership towards national reconciliation, the ambassador stressed, is being hailed not only inside of this country but also abroad.

For the purpose of realising the course of national reconciliation, the DRA leadership under Najibullah undertakes a series of measures in political and other spheres. In so doing the government takes into account all specific features of Afghanistan, its historic traditions, the ambassador underscored.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VIETNAM

BK191230 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 19 -- A delegation of the Commission for External Relations of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee led by Yos Son, member of the KPRP Central Committee and president of the commission, returned home Tuesday after a two-week official friendship visit of Vietnam.

While there, the delegation paid tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office in Hanoi.

It was warmly received by Tran Xuan Bach, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

The delegation had a working session with Hoang Bich Son, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of its International Department. The two sides informed each other of the revolutionary situation in their respective countries, compared notes on international and regional situation, and discussed measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation for the coming period.

VODK CRITIQUES SRV-USSR JOINT HANOI COMMUNIQUE

BK190423 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Station commentary: "Though Vietnam and the Soviet Union Do Not Change Their Stand on the Cambodian Problem, the Situation in Cambodia and Vietnam Continues To Change"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze ended his visit to a number of countries in Southeast Asia by issuing a joint communique with Vietnam in which he declared that the Soviet Union continues to support Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. In the same joint communique, the Soviet Union and Vietnam made spurious, false, and meaningless remarks about a so-called way to solve the Cambodian conflict as soon as possible and about purifying the atmosphere in Southeast Asia.

This SRV-USSR joint communique, like Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok, used such high words as peace, cooperation, and so on to cover up the strategy of aggression and expansion. The expression "political settlement of the Cambodian problem" uttered by Vietnam and the Soviet Union means demanding that the Cambodian people lay down their arms, stop fighting, and bow in surrender to Vietnam and the Soviet Union. "Cooperation" and other words about friendship and a clear atmosphere in Southeast Asia uttered by Vietnam and the Soviet Union mean that other countries in Southeast Asia must stop supporting the just struggle of the Cambodian people. They are insolent and arrogant remarks of an overlord who usurps to himself the right to determine the fate of other smaller countries and to give order to other people as he pleases.

Who is the culprit who has caused the unclean, tense atmosphere in Southeast Asia? Is it not Vietnam which has sent hundreds of thousands of troops to invade Cambodia with the intention of becoming the lord of Southeast Asia? Is it not the Soviets who have supported Vietnam in its aggression against Cambodia with the intention of becoming the superlord of Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region? Vietnam and the Soviet Union have made all these lies and spurious remarks because Vietnam is bogged down inextricably, finds itself in a complete and total impasse on its battlefield of aggression in Cambodia, and is experiencing serious difficulties at home to the point that its top leadership was irreparably split.

In using these deceptive honeyed words, Vietnam and the Soviet Union are attempting to fool world opinion into ending pressure on Vietnam to allow the latter a respite and breather to prolong its war of aggression in Cambodia.

We would like to stress once again that the Cambodian people and the CGDK have no interest in antagonizing Vietnam and the Soviet Union. We urge Vietnam to stop committing aggression against Cambodia and the Soviet Union to stop helping Vietnam in its aggression against Cambodia. All countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region can judge whether Vietnam and the Soviet Union really want peace by looking at the concrete actions of the Soviet Union and Vietnam concerning the Cambodian problem. If Vietnam continues to invade and occupy Cambodia and the Soviet Union helps Vietnam in that process, all words uttered by the two regarding peace, friendship, cooperation, and mutual relations are merely deceptive words that no one can believe.

The Cambodian people and the CGDK urge the Vietnamese and Soviet leaderships to further study the 8-point peace proposal put forward by the CGDK on 17 March 1986 and to further examine all the reasons given by the Cambodian people and the CGDK in their 18 February 1987 appeal. All of this reflects our genuine desire to have friendship with the Vietnamese people and the SRV and with the Soviet people and the USSR.

KHIEU SAMPHAN ADDRESS AT 17 MAR MEETING

BK200438 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Address by DK Vice President in charge of foreign affairs Khieu Samphan at a meeting held on 17 March on a battlefield in Democratic Kampuchea to mark the first anniversary of the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal -- recorded]

[Text] Respected and beloved comrades-in-arms and compatriots: Today, we are meeting to mark the first anniversary of our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. All of us recall with great happiness 17 March 1986, when the representatives of the CGDK's three parties -- Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, DK president and representative of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC); His Excellency Son Sann, CGDK prime minister and representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; and myself representing our Democratic Kampuchea side and as DK vice president in charge of foreign affairs -- solemnly signed and publicly put forward our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. [applause]

This proposal is a major victory of historical significance of our Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to defend the nation and country. This 8-point peace proposal is the result of our increasingly great national unity and is the basis for expanding and strengthening this force both to continue the struggle until the Vietnamese enemy aggressor forces are all withdrawn from Cambodia and after the withdrawal of these forces. This 8-point peace proposal reflects the Cambodian people's goodwill and desire for peace. It is also the constitution of our Cambodian nation now and in the future. [applause]

All of us are celebrating the first anniversary of our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal with a high determination to strive further toward achieving our national constitution and with the firm belief that we shall certainly achieve it. [applause] The past year has shown the great influence of our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. This proposal, as soon as it was made public, received vigorous assistance and support from our entire people and nation at home and abroad and also from the overwhelming majority of people the world over.

The whole world clearly realizes that the Cambodian people only aspire to live in peace within its present boundaries and want to have good relations with every country in the world, including Vietnam. The world also realizes that the Cambodian people are courageous and brave. They dare to struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors. They are capable of fighting and winning successive victories over the Vietnamese aggressors, and they have bogged down the Vietnamese on the battlefield of aggression in Cambodia, caused them great difficulties in Vietnam, and disgraced them in the world.

The whole world has clearly seen that the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal is very generous for Vietnam. Vietnam is the aggressor in Cambodia; Cambodia is the victim. Vietnam has caused great destruction for the Cambodian nation and people. The Vietnamese aggressors are guilty of serious crimes against the Cambodian people and peace- and justice-loving people the world over. Despite this, the Cambodian people are still generous toward Vietnam. Once Vietnam withdraws from Cambodia, peaceful and good neighborly relations between our two countries will be immediately restored.

The overwhelming majority of people in the world have clearly seen that our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal is in accordance with the successive resolutions of the United Nations and is a just, correct, reasonable, and comprehensive proposal. This 8-point peace proposal takes into the account the interests of all parties concerned; makes provisions for Vietnam to withdraw from Cambodia in an orderly and honorable manner; considers national reconciliation among all Cambodians; and takes into account the interests of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as well. The CGDK's 8-point peace proposal clearly shows the resolute goodwill of the Cambodian people in wanting to resolve the Cambodian problem politically. The fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have rejected the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal has further shown the world more clearly Vietnam as an aggressor and expansionist who attempts to annex Cambodia and rule over Southeast Asia. The world has further condemned Vietnam's aggression in Cambodia and demanded that Vietnam withdraw all its aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Currently, the world has a clever opinion on a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The world clearly realizes that if Vietnam really wants to resolve the Cambodian issue politically, Vietnam has to accept the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal and hold talks with the CGDK, because the CGDK represents the Cambodian people, victims of Vietnam's aggression, and is currently waging a national liberation war against the Vietnamese aggressors. Hanoi cannot fool people through its deceitful and tricky diplomatic maneuvers to avoid resolving the Cambodian issue with the CGDK. This is the great influence of the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. [applause]

All of us are determined to struggle until the Vietnamese aggressors agree to resolve the Cambodian problem according to our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. Once the Vietnamese aggressors are withdrawn from Cambodia, all of us pledge to continue our great national unity by firmly adhering to the 8 points, which are the basis of our nation's constitution, to defend a Cambodia which is independent, peaceful, united, neutral, and nonaligned with no foreign military bases on our territory. [applause]

Finally, all of us would like to express most profound gratitude to all peace- and justice-loving countries and people the world over who have assisted and supported our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. We would like to express thanks in particular to the ASEAN countries. This assistance and support are a powerful force, combined with the Cambodian people's struggle on the battlefield, to advance toward a political solution to the Cambodian problem. We appeal to all peace- and justice-loving countries and people the world over to continue to firmly assist and support our CGDK's 8-point peace proposal until Vietnam agrees to resolve the Cambodian problem politically through this 8-point peace proposal.

Long live the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal! [applause]

PHOUN SIPASEUT RECEIVES OUTGOING AUSTRALIAN ENVOY**BK191147 Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 19 Mar 87**

[Text] Vientiane, March 19 (KPL) -- Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for Foreign Affairs, received here yesterday morning outgoing Australian Ambassador John Bruce Campbell, who is ending his diplomatic mission here.

On this occasion, Phoun Sipaseut expressed his thanks to the ambassador, and through him, to the Australian Government for their assistance to the Lao national economic construction. He wished the ambassador a good trip home and success in his new mission.

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT RECEIVES THAI PEACE DELEGATION**BK191145 Vientiane KPL in English 0927 GMT 19 Mar 87**

[Text] Vientiane, March 19 (KPL) -- Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Republic and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR, received here yesterday morning a visiting delegation of the Programme for Peace and Development of the Kingdom of Thailand led by its vice-chairman Dr Khothom Ariya.

In their cordial talk, the guests and the host discussed issues relating to the traditional relations between the two countries with a view to further developing the mutual understanding, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourly ties between the two peoples in the spirit of the joint communique signed by both governments in 1979.

PRESS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH THAILAND**BK191113 Vientiane KPL in English 0938 GMT 19 Mar 87**

[Text] Vientiane, March 19 (KPL) -- Phanthong Phommahasai, acting-head of the Press Department of the Lao Foreign Ministry, has granted today an interview to KPL correspondent in connection with the normalization of Lao-Thai relations.

With regard to an invitation by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila to the Lao Government for further talks in Bangkok P Phommahasai said that Souban Salitthilat, deputy-minister of foreign affairs, already made known in his January 28 interview the Lao side's active preparations for talks with the Thai side in Bangkok. He added that Lao ambassador to Thailand Khamphan Simmalavong, on February 20, handed over a message from vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut to Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawtesila, informing that the Lao high-level technical team is bound for Bangkok in late March.

The Vientiane talks between the high-level Lao-Thai technical teams last November and a visit by a Laos art-troupe to Thailand in mid-December 1986 were most welcomed by these two countries' peoples, because these activities correspond with their long-standing aspiration and with the trend of peace in the region and the world, said P. Phommahasai, answering a question on his viewpoints relating to the forthcoming talks between high-level technical teams of the two countries. He further stated that the social strata in Thailand are glad and highly hopeful of the normalization of Lao-Thai brotherly relations, that is why they are eager to know of the date and time of the second round of talks between the two countries' high-level technical teams.

The acting-head of the Press Department also pointed out that in the past and at present as well, the ill-willed individuals and groupings in Thailand, keen on obstructing Lao-Thai relations, have tried to undermine the good atmosphere and maintain tension and confrontation between the groups of countries, Indochina and ASEAN, by colluding with the imperialists and other international reactionary forces to disturb the Lao people's security and carry out all forms of provocation.

Questioned about the sabotage activities by the ill-willed persons in Thailand, P. Phommahasai said that in spite of a good atmosphere resulting from the talks last November, they have persisted in undermining the normalization of Lao-Thai brotherly relations. They have undertaken various forms: armed provocations, violations of territorial integrity, groundless allegations, espionage and infiltrations for sabotage, and supporting, feeding and training Lao exiled reactionaries for undermining the life and properties and economic structures of the Lao people. Moreover, they have secretly sent intelligence agents to spread distortions about the image of security in the new Lao regime.

-- A group of ill-intentioned people in Thailand, in coordination with a number of their collaborators in Laos, used Mr. Phuang Satchaphong, aged 47, a native of Ban Moei Hamlet, Tambon Song Hong Khonkaen Province, to collect intelligence on strategic localities in Laos.

The person concerned was arrested in November 1986 in Vientiane and confessed his wrong doing.

-- On Feb. 15, 1987, bad elements in Thailand sent a fully armed exiled Lao man from Thailand named Manivong to carry out a subversive act in the capital, Vientiane. This man was subsequently arrested. And in the early hours of March 9, this type of sabotage was launched anew in the capital.

We still have other proof -- all of which we will disclose in appropriate time.

On the question of whether these inopportune incidents will affect the next visit to Bangkok of a high-level technical team of the Lao Government, Phanthong Phommahasai said:

The Lao Government and people, at all times, stick to the policy of peace and friendship in their relations with the Thai people. Such policy holds good despite all kinds of provocation, even following the event in the three hamlets of the northwestern Lao Province of Sayaboury in 1984. The latter incident was considered the worst kind affecting the Lao-Thai relations ever since the Lao People's Democratic Republic was founded. Nevertheless, the Lao side still sent its delegations to Bangkok in a hope to together solve the problem by peaceful means as brotherly neighbouring countries should.

This was in accordance with the Lao-Thai joint communiques signed in 1979. But it is a pity that this problem has not yet been solved.

We notice that whenever there is a good trend in the relations between the two countries, the bad elements in Thailand join hands with reactionary powers with an intention to immediately obstruct or damage this positive development as they are doing at the present moment. And all incidents whose cause has sprung from the Thai side of the border as I have enumerated were to serve the motive. Therefore, both the Lao and Thai must maintain high vigilance in jointly fighting bad elements in order to permanently co-exist in peace, he said.

On the question of the focus of attention of the Lao side at the next talks in Bangkok, the acting head of the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry said that he guessed that the Lao side will raise all questions concerning the interests of both peoples.

He added: "I believe that the improvement of relations between our two countries in accordance with the Lao-Thai communiques signed in 1979 will serve as an important factor guaranteeing peace and security for the two countries as well as contributing to the settlement of the regional problems."

VIENTIANE CRITICIZES THAI ARMS EXHIBITION

BK190413 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Dangerous Initiative"]

[Text] The Thai authorities recently opened an exhibition of arms and military equipment manufactured in some ASEAN and capitalist countries at the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel in Bangkok. Announcing the objectives of the arms show, they said that it is to encourage the countries of the world to investment more on weapons and military equipment production in Thailand for export and for meeting its security requirements.

Several months ago, Thai authorities also publicized in a television program the success of the production of a certain type of ammunition for infantrymen. Thailand's television Channel 7 also recently announced success in shipbuilding for military purposes.

The arms show and Thailand's investment in weapons production in the past look like a normal matter. But if one carefully considers it, it is not normal at all. This matter shows an intention to lead Thailand into the arms race and, on the other hand, to turn this country into a major source of arms production in Southeast Asia, while no other country in this region has ever engaged in this kind of business. Eventually, Thailand will become a militarily industrialized country.

Even though Thailand's financial and technological potentials are limited, the arms show and the encouragement of investment in arms production reflect the trend of initiatives being taken by a group of people in Thailand, who want to turn the production of arms and military equipment into a commercial business, aimed at enriching themselves by taking advantage of the need for arms with no regard for the level of national economic development and the Thai people's poverty. This trend does not conform to the interest of peace in this part of the world. On the other hand, it will further complicate the existing confusion in Thai society.

Everyone knows well that investment in producing arms and military equipment is a tremendous waste of natural resources and national capital, particularly at a time when Thailand's economic and social situation is declining, when farmers are facing hardships due to declining prices for their products, and when the working people in towns are facing difficulties in their daily life due to the high cost of living, the increasing rate of unemployment, and the spread of social vices into every corner of Thailand. For this reason, there is no reason to talk about encouraging investment in producing weapons and military equipment.

The trend of the above initiatives will only lead to one winner -- a small group of people currently engaged in this business will become richer, while the national economy will decline seriously and the working people will become poorer.

Realizing the consequences that will follow, the Thai people do not approve this trend. At the opening ceremony of the arms show hundreds of people and students in Bangkok demonstrated against the exhibition and called on the Thai Government to invest in economic and cultural development and to use money to relieve the hunger of children, the plight of the unemployed and Thai prostitutes, and to do away with the exploitation of child labor. The Thai people are aware that the initiatives to encourage investment in arms production in Thailand will bring danger to them.

BRIEFS

SRV RADIO DELEGATION -- Vientiane, March 18 (KPL) -- Radiomen from the Vietnamese province of Nghe Tinh led by Nguyen Cong Thanh, director of Nghe Tinh radio station, on March 15, visited Xieng Khouang Province. The 4-day visit was made at the invitation of their Lao twinned province of Xieng Khouang. The two sides discussed in detail a 1987 plan on radio cooperation between them. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0922 GMT 18 Mar 87 BK]

USSR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ENDS VISIT

OW191715 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- Oleg G. Peresypkin, dean of the Diplomatic Academy of the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs and member of the ministry's leadership, left here today, concluding a five-day visit to Vietnam as guest of the Institute of Foreign Relations under the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While here, he had working sessions with senior officials of the host institute. The two sides exchanged experience and views on bilateral cooperation in the studies of international relationship and in personnel training. The Soviet guest was cordially received by Nguyen Co Thach, politburo member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs.

CAMBODIAN DELEGATION CONCLUDES FRIENDSHIP VISIT

OW191752 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- A delegation of the Phnom Penh party and people's committees left Hanoi today after a week-long friendship visit to Vietnam.

It was led by Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and secretary of the Phnom Penh party committee; and Thong Khon, mayor of Phnom Penh.

While here, it was received by C.P.V. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and had working sessions with a delegation of the Hanoi party and people's committees. Documents on the cooperation between Hanoi and Phnom Penh in 1987 were signed on the occasion. The Kampuchean guests toured several economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, the colliery province of Quang Ninh and Hai Hung Province.

NGUYEN CO THACH RECEIVES FRENCH OFFICIAL

OW191646 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- Jean Pierre Puissochet, state advisor and director of the International Institute of Public Administration of France, paid a visit to Vietnam from March 14-19 as guest of the Institute of Foreign Relations under the Foreign Ministry. The French guest had working sessions with the directorate of the host institute and other concerned offices. He was received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

CELEBRATION PLANNED HONORING OCTOBER REVOLUTION

OW191657 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- The Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association held a press conference here today to report on activities to be organized in Vietnam in anticipation of the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

Speaking at the press conference, Nguyen Vinh, president of the association, brought out the significance of the October socialist revolution in the contemporary history of mankind, especially its great impact on the Vietnamese revolution. He highlighted the friendly ties and allround cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union's role in the struggle for world peace and international security.

In the coming period, he said, the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association will organize diverse activities including talks, exhibitions, art performances, film weeks, writing and painting competitions and book publication in honour of this historical event. A quiz on the Soviet land and people and the October Revolution is included in the program of celebrations.

SWEDISH COOPERATION MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

OW191757 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- Ms. Lena Hjejm Wallen, minister of cooperation for development of Sweden, left Vietnam today after a seven-day visit to Vietnam. Ms. Lena Hjejm Wallen and her party were received on separate occasions by Pham Van Dong and Vo Van Kiet, chairman and vice chairman of the council of ministers respectively. She held talks with Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern.

Speaking at a press conference held after their talks, Vietnamese foreign minister highly valued the strong support of the Swedish government and people to Vietnam in the past struggle against U.S. aggression, and expressed gratitude for the generous assistance of the Swedish government and people over the past years. For her part, the Swedish minister expressed satisfaction at the tempo of construction at Swedish-funded projects and their effectiveness in Vietnam. She said that the process of renewal in the country had attracted much of her attention. The two ministers expressed the wish for further promotion of the fine friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

While here, the Swedish guests visited a number of Swedish-funded projects, several economic and cultural establishments and historical relics in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

GENERAL NGUYEN NAM KHANH ON COMING ELECTIONS

BK180836 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Station correspondent's interview with Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, member of the CPV Central Committee, deputy head of the VPA Political General Department, and member of the Central Electoral Council on the upcoming National Assembly and people's council elections -- recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear Comrade, the upcoming elections for the eighth National Assembly deputies and the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels will profoundly reflect the new spirit and contents of the party Central Committee political report submitted at the Sixth CPV Congress in order to contribute to electing the National Assembly -- the highest state organ of power -- that will exercise its important legislative and inspection functions and to electing the people's councils at various levels which will be able to fulfill their tasks as state organs of power in the localities. Would you please elaborate on the above issues?

[General Khanh] The election of the eighth National Assembly deputies and of the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels will be held on 19 April 1987. These elections will profoundly reflect the new spirit of the Sixth CPV Congress and will elect a real capable National Assembly that can ensure functions of the highest state organ of power and will elect district and village people's councils which are able to fulfill the tasks of state organs of power in the localities. The state must use as its base the position, role, and function of the people's elected organs -- the National Assembly and the people's councils at various levels -- to ensure that the election is held in a truly democratic manner and in accordance with the prescribed law. We must thoroughly understand the viewpoint of taking the people as a base; we must apply a new concept and work method; and we must carry out the motto of letting the people know, discuss, do, and supervise from the stage of nominating candidates to the stages of electing and inspecting the elections and qualifications of national assembly deputies.

First of all, we must create favorable conditions for all nominated candidates to run for the National Assembly election. The Sixth CPV Congress has stressed the necessity to change our concept, work method, and cadre-related tasks to ensure the fulfillment of our nation's new revolutionary tasks. National assembly deputies must thoroughly understand the Sixth CPV Congress resolution and must really acquire a new spirit in order to be able to carry out tasks entrusted by the people.

Standard qualifications of nominated candidates for the National Assembly deputies election have been defined as follow:

Nominated candidates are those loyal to the fatherland and socialism, who have scored achievements in production and combat, who acquire new concepts and stay close to the realities; who understand the people's aspiration, enthusiastically serve the people, and dare to present the people's ideas and aspirations; who are able to set examples in implementing state policies and law; who are ready to struggle to protect the people's interests and oppose all erroneous and negative practices; and who have real qualifications and capabilities in carrying out the tasks of the National Assembly. Those nominated candidates for the people's councils election must also acquire similar standard qualifications. We must ensure the abovementioned qualifications and must change the set standard to meet the composition of candidates.

To ensure a better understanding of voters toward nominated candidates, we must create favorable conditions for these candidates to hold meetings with the voters while striving to enhance the National Assembly deputies' sense of responsibility. There is new progress in this election, that is we have more electoral units and each of them is to elect three deputies. Localities which have difficulty in dividing electoral units can elect two or four deputies at each electoral unit.

Before, when too many deputies -- from five to nine -- were elected in each electoral unit, it was difficult for voters to make their choice. In nominating candidates running in elections, it is necessary to truly rely on the grass roots and the laboring collectives and trust in the people's political awareness. Except for the laboring collectives at the various basic units and fatherland front committees at various levels, no other organs can draw up a list of candidates. It is necessary to solicit opinions about the qualifications of each candidate at his place of work as well as his place of residence. The nominated candidates shall meet with voters to learn about the latter's feelings and aspirations and inform the latter of their programs of action as well as their capabilities so that voters can make their choice and elect those they trust. The number of nominated candidates must be larger than that of the deputies to be elected; and they must all be fully qualified for office if elected so as to give voters a wide choice upon casting their ballots.

These are a number of activities aimed at further guaranteeing democracy and ensuring success for the coming elections.

[Correspondent] So, dear comrade, the coming elections must truly reflect democracy, and everyone should learn well from the lesson of considering the people as roots and ensure the people's knowledge, action, discussion, and supervision in all activities -- from selecting candidates running in the elections to supervising the elections and examining the qualifications of deputies. Please tell us what our cadres and soldiers should do to achieve this.

[General Nguyen Nam Khanh] Being the armed forces of the people and an instrument of the state and the system of socialist collective mastery, our army must be fully aware of the important meaning of the coming elections. Every soldier has his responsibilities and rights as citizen of the SRV -- namely the rights to stand in elections and elect fully-qualified deputies to represent the people in carrying out state management effectively at the National Assembly and people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels, thus ensuring the fulfillment of the political tasks set forth by the party and meeting the people's needs and aspirations.

Under the leadership and education of the party, our army always serves as a core force to carry out all major missions and important political tasks of the party and state. In the coming elections, we must act as exemplary citizens, scrupulously abide by all electoral regulations, and actively encourage others to do the same.

An important task that is also the main function of the army is to fight for the defense of the administration. The army must always heighten vigilance, stand ready for combat, fight victoriously; and together with other defense forces, it must satisfactorily provide protection to ensure absolute safety for the coming elections nationwide.

This is a broad political drive of the entire people and army. Party committee echelons and commanders at all levels of the entire army should formulate plans to ensure that their units will organize the elections with good results and join the localities where they are stationed in ensuring success for the elections.

NHAN DAN VIEWS PROPER CANDIDATE SELECTION

BK141410 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[NHAN DAN 14 March editorial: "Consultative Meetings To Recommend Candidates Standing for Elections to the National Assembly and People's Councils Must Be Held in a Truly Democratic Manner and in Accordance With the Law"]

[Text] Meetings have been held in many localities to recommend candidates for elections to the National Assembly and the local people's councils. Meetings have been held in city wards, villages, and hamlets, and other grass-roots level units to exchange views on the scope of elections and the number of candidates to be nominated. In many grass-roots level meetings, meritorious candidates have been introduced to collectives for selection.

The VFF standing committee of some provinces, cities, and special zones have held the first consultative meetings to consider the recommendation of candidates at the grass-roots level. Meetings to recommend candidates have been held urgently and scrupulously in many grass-roots level units to collect the people's constructive ideas; this has begun to reflect the motto of letting the people know, debate, perform, and control.

While there has been some progress, the old procedures are still maintained in many localities. The phenomenon of apparent democracy still prevails in several forms. In some localities, voters have conducted debate just for the sake of formality. As a result, many people have not firmly grasped their rights and duties in elections and have failed to thoroughly understand and correctly hold consultative meetings. In many other localities, not enough voters can be gathered at meetings to recommend candidates at the grass-roots level. In other localities, debate seems to be conducted democratically but it is in fact imposing the lists of candidates on voters. Some of the candidates have been recommended without consulting the views of the laboring people at their working and living places.

One of the most important tasks of the VFF is to hold consultative meetings recommending lists of candidates for elections. This task well done bears a decisive effect on the quality and result of the elections. In holding consultative meetings to select candidates, the first taboo is conducting them in a superficial or coercive and authoritarian manner. The selection must be organized democratically, starting with the grass-roots level, by relying on the laboring collectives and by trusting the political awareness of the people.

Those candidates introduced by the VFF at all echelons for standing in the elections to the National Assembly and people's councils, must be necessarily recommended by the laboring collectives at grass-roots level, the political parties, mass and social organizations in localities, or by various agencies and sectors to form the structures of the coming National Assembly and people's councils.

The VFF at all echelons together with other members in the front are dutybound to make voters thoroughly aware of the qualifications of candidates, the structural requirements, and the required number of candidates, and to let the laboring collectives and people be entirely free to select and recommend their candidates.

In each electoral unit, the front committees at all levels should combine listening to the views of the people and laboring collectives at the working and living places of candidates on the personality of candidates with organizing consultative meetings with various political parties and mass organizations to introduce the lists of candidates. In case voters at the working and living places of candidates hold differing views with the VFF preconceived opinion, their views and petitions must be scrupulously considered.

When the people's views are found to be correct, the candidates involved must be promptly replaced. To understand and correctly comply with the rule of consultation must also mean to create conditions for the people to firmly grasp the profile of the candidates.

We should conduct well the review of and report on the performances of the current National Assembly and the people's councils at district, village, and equivalent levels so that voters can share their views with their delegates.

We should also organize well the meetings of voters with candidates so that the latter fully know the people's aspirations. The voters will also come to know the ideas, action programs, abilities, and knowledge level of candidates, and thus have some grounds on which to select their trusted delegates.

All preparations must be made adequate before conducting consultative meetings because debates aimed at reaching an identity of views can achieve good results only when based on accurate information on many fields and from many directions.

Previously, the lists of candidates were often established inconsiderately. The number of candidates in each electoral unit was equal or about the authorized number. In the coming elections, the right of selection will be guaranteed by the new rule compelling the number of candidates to be greater than the number to be elected. Moreover, this right is further guaranteed all along the consultative meetings during which the lists of candidates will be established.

Consequently, the front committees at all echelons should cooperate with the administrative agencies and mass organizations to intensify control over the establishment of candidates lists in order to promptly remedy all mistakes, errors, and irregularities; warrant true democracy and compliance with the law; and quickly and neatly settle all complaints and letters of denunciation by the people.

The important point is to make the people thoroughly understand the principles of voting and running in elections as stipulated in the Constitution and put into effect by various documents of the state agencies so that voters can be fully aware of their right and responsibility, have the conditions for detecting unqualified candidates, and know how to file their petition to the authorized levels for consideration.

SOVIETS FUND BUILDING OF PETROCHEMICAL FACTORY

OW190935 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 19 -- Construction of a Soviet-funded petrochemical factory has begun in Dong Nai Province, northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, which a designed capacity of 6 million tons a year.

Haiphong port city has opened to traffic a newly laid railway at Chua Ve Harbour.

The Thang Long paper mill in Ha Son Binh Province, southwest of Hanoi, has over the last two months produced 100 tons of water-proof cardboard.

The air terminal at the Tan Son Nhat airport in Ho Chi Minh City has been enlarged by 7,738 square meters to house a number of new facilities including a modern lounge for passengers of international flights. Equipment for night landing and telecommunications has been upgraded.

Long An Province, southwest of Ho Chi Minh City, has expanded its electric grid in service of rural development, especially the reclamation of the plain of reeds. A 15-kv line totalling 60 km has been installed to supply electricity for pumping stations and other projects when the first generator group of the Tri An hydroelectric power plant is commissioned.

The Institute of Building Technology under the Ministry of Construction is applying the method of assembling a whole floor in the current programme of adding floors to multi-storied houses in Hanoi and other cities.

AUSTRALIASENATOR ON COMMITMENT TO BOOST RELATIONS WITH SRV

BK181021 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] The Australian Government says it is committed to developing a more normal and comprehensive relationship with Vietnam. The deputy government leader in the Senate, Senator Evans, representing the foreign minister, said it was clearly in the interest of Australia and the region that Vietnam be encouraged to trade more widely. Those interests were not served by Vietnam being isolated.

He said the government was prepared to consider ways to assist increased trade. Senator Evans said the development of Australia's bilateral relationship with Vietnam served to encourage Vietnam to play a full and responsible role in the region. He said Australia was encouraged by recent signs that Vietnam was seriously addressing the question of economic reform and broadening its international trade.

MINISTER BEAZLEY CLARIFIES DEFENSE WHITE PAPER

BK190152 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Defense White Paper presented to Parliament today calls for a shift in emphasis to the defense of the north of Australia. The defense minister, Mr Beazley, told Parliament that the paper set out the strategy for the defense of Australia in depth and the direction for reequipment of the armed forces into the next century. Mr Beazley said no regional power had the capability to mount a major attack on Australia. However, he said the capability to mount serious smaller scale military operations against Australia already existed in the region.

Radio Australia's Canberra correspondent, Graeme Dobell, says the White Paper sets out a three-layered defense strategy to guard 10 percent of the earth's surface stretching from the Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean to New Zealand. The paper says extra facilities will be set up in the north of Australia and more of the country's defense force will be based and trained there.

The defense minister said that at current level, the defense budget provided nearly \$40,000 million for capital spending over the next 15 years. But the capital program outlined in the white paper required only half that amount, giving the government flexibility to meet further needs.

Speaks Defense Objectives

BK191030 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 19 Mar 87

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Australian Government has released a major defense statement calling for a more self-reliant defense posture, greater emphasis on the defense of northern Australia, and the largest reequipment program in peacetime history.

The White Paper presented to Federal Parliament by the defense minister, Mr Beazley, sets out the strategic thinking for Australia's defense well into the next century.

Mr Beazley told Federal Parliament that although there was no regional threat facing Australia, the country had to be prepared to meet what he called low-level threats. Graeme Dobell reports that Mr Beazley outlined the strategy of layered defense:

[Begin recording] [Beazley] This strategy is in the broadest political sense, defensive.

[Dobell] Mr Beazley went on to emphasize that while the policy might be defensive in political terms, in purely military terms, it could be quite offensive. Australia had by far the strongest long-range strike capability in the region with the ability to operate well beyond its area of direct military interest.

The government says it will undertake the largest defense equipment program in Australian history costing \$25,000 million over the next 10 years.

Major programs will include the construction of new submarines, new surface combat ships, more helicopters, and minesweeping ships to guard the approaches to Australia's harbors. Mr Beazley said no regional power had the capability to mount a major attack on Australia, but already some regional powers could pose low-level threats such as mining of ports. Attacks on offshore territories, or raids in remote areas of northern Australia.

[Beazley] The importance of low-level contingencies poses a unique challenge to Australia's military planning. Nations in the traditional battlefields of Europe or the Middle East prepare primarily for the highest level of threat, that of invasion. Australia's force structure could not be feasibly planned on that basis. Preparation for low levels of threat requires unique planning and operational concepts.

[Dobell] Because of that view the White Paper marks a significant change in the allocation of Australian defense resources. Much more military hardware and personnel will be allocated to the vast and underpopulated but resource-rich north and northwest of the country. As well, Australia will develop the Jindalee over-the-horizon radar which will mean it can look deep into Southeast Asia. And, Australia will boost its independent intelligence gathering capability by building a satellite communications station in Western Australia. Mr Beazley summed up the approach this way.

[Beazley] We need flexible and long-range capabilities for maritime surveillance and interdiction to deny an adversary effective use of the sea-air gap to the north. We need comprehensive capabilities in areas ignored in the recent past, such as mine countermeasures. We need a highly mobile army able to react to incursions right across the continent, and we need ground forces able to protect military and civilian infrastructure and population in the most remote parts of the country. Again, I am not suggesting that any willingness or tensions that threaten Australia in this way exists in the region. As I have said, proper defense planning must be based on contingencies which reflect a realistic assessment of prevailing and developing regional capabilities.

Inherent in the defense paper and in the government's implementation of defense self-reliance is the linking of a practical defense policy with our allies and our role in the region as a military power.

Australia-United States cooperation is important to basic elements of an effective and efficient system of Australian defense.

[Dobell] The White Paper said Indonesia formed a protective barrier to Australia's northern approaches and Canberra wanted a sound and constructive defense relationship with Jakarta. The paper said the principal uncertainties in Southeast Asia were economic and political problems in the Philippines, the pressures surrounding Kampuchea, and the establishment of the Soviet naval presence at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. Mr Beasley said that Soviet presence was a significant concern for Australian defense policy.

[Beasley] The Soviet Union does not enjoy naval and air dominance in the region. In the event of global conflict, its military assets in Vietnam would be very vulnerable to U.S. forces in the region. Nonetheless, its presence is an adverse element in regional security. Its primary significance lies in the political influence it provides the Soviet Union. It gives added importance to our defense cooperative activities in the region, particularly our maritime surveillance of the South China Sea and the northeast Indian Ocean and our naval deployments to the regions.

In the South Pacific, Australia is a major regional power. Recent developments affecting the South Pacific have contributed to an increasingly complex political and strategic situation. Accordingly, the government is working to explore and develop measures for defense cooperation among our island neighbors that will help ensure strategic stability and security in the region.

[Dobell] In what could have been the government's reply to charges that it was adopting an isolationist defense posture, Mr Beasley said the policy would directly support regional stability and protect Western interests in this part of the globe.

The defense minister said Australia's long-standing defense relationship with New Zealand, and the two countries' common perceptions of security objectives in Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific would remain an important factor in regional stability.
[end recording]

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ENDS 2-DAY VISIT

HK170715 Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 7 Mar 87 p 4

[By Wellington Staff]

[Text] The Australian Minister of Defence, Mr Beasley, ended two days of transtatesman defence talks yesterday by making it clear he expects New Zealand to honour its commitment to an improved military capability.

Mr Beasley said he was satisfied with New Zealand's defence effort as long as the moves outlined in the defence white paper were agreed to by the New Zealand Government.

These included a commitment to a "blue water" Navy and increased maritime surveillance capability by the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Following the talks, Mr Beasley and his New Zealand counterpart, Mr O'Flynn, signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the design of new surface combat ships.

Although the size and armaments of the new ships have yet to be decided, the white paper indicated they would have a longer range than New Zealand's present Leander-class frigates, and be used for patrol and surveillance purposes.

The key characteristics of the design chosen will be range, seakeeping, endurance, helicopter accommodation and surveillance and communications facilities, rather than advanced or complex weapons and high speed.

However, they will have what the white paper describes as "basic self-defence capability against air and surface attack and some ability against submarines."

Under the memorandum of understanding New Zealand will collaborate on the project up to the stage of design selection and shipbuilder evaluations.

At that point, or at the completion of the evaluation of tenders for the construction phase, New Zealand will decide whether it wishes to proceed with the joint acquisition of ships.

Following yesterday's talks, Mr Beasley said he was more concerned about New Zealand's defence capability than how much it spent on defence.

The commitment to a blue water Navy, the development of a rapid deployment force and longer-range maritime patrolling capability, provided for in the white paper, was important if New Zealand was to play its role in the strategic defence of the region.

He rejected suggestions that there had been any reluctance on the part of the Australian military to cooperate with New Zealand military personnel as a result of the Anzus rift.

In the joint communique released after the talks, the two ministers said the differences over port visits by nuclear warships would not prevent the two Governments working together to further common defence interests.

LANGE CLAIMS LIBYA 'MEDDLING' IN SOUTH PACIFIC

HK170655 Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 10 Mar 87 p 8

[NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION, Wellington]

[Text] The Prime Minister, Mr Lange, yesterday described a Libyan campaign to boost its diplomatic and commercial presence in the South Pacific as "meddling."

The moves would only be seen as a threat and would be carried out for either a religious or political bias which was not in the interests of people in the region, he said.

Libyan diplomats have been quoted in the MELBOURNE AGE newspaper as saying that the move may lead to financial support being given to Kanaks fighting for independence in New Caledonia.

Libya also plans to set up its first embassy in the Pacific Islands, probably in Vanuatu.

It is also negotiating with other island governments over establishing diplomatic relations.

The National Party's foreign affairs spokesman, Sir Robert Muldoon, has said the South Pacific would be destabilised if Libyans took a more active interest in any of the Forum countries, particularly Vanuatu or New Caledonia.

"The result would be that we would have a Cuba in the South Pacific with all the destabilising impacts that Cuba has had on its own part of the world," he said yesterday.

The Labour Government's policies moved New Zealand towards the Non-Aligned Movement and did nothing to help the situation.

However, Mr Lange said the last National Government, under Sir Robert's leadership, established diplomatic relations with Libya.

It appeared Libya might be engaged in another regional thrust.

Mr Lange said that if Vanuatu or New Caledonia continued to be ostracised, they could become frustrated.

"The temptation is that they do go ahead and flamboyantly forge what could be quite detrimental linkages with other countries," he said.

Work was being carried out to see that they did not get "driven into romantic and peculiar liaison with countries whose interests do not coincide with our region."

New Zealand had increased its aid allocation to Vanuatu and would, before the end of the year, open a post there.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINISTER ON TALKS WITH HAWKE ON LIBYA'S PRESENCE

BK181025 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Mr Diro, says Australia's prime minister, Mr Hawke, raised the subject of Libya's links with the South Pacific region during talks in Canberra. Mr Diro said that Mr Hawke had extended their scheduled talks and was concerned about Libya's presence in the region.

Speaking in Port Moresby on his return home, Mr Diro said Libya's increasing involvement in the South Pacific will be discussed at the South Pacific Forum meeting in Apia in May. The Papua New Guinean minister said his country shared the concern that Libya's involvement in the New Caledonian issue could affect stability within the region.

Australian officials said yesterday that in his talks with Mr Hawke, Mr Diro expressed satisfaction over progress being made on the proposed joint declaration of principles to cover the relationship between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

GDR MINISTER DEPARTS 17 MAR; AGREEMENT SIGNED

BK171020 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja said that world peace and security are still threatened, especially as a result of the arms race. In his speech at a luncheon held in honor of the visiting German Democratic Republic foreign minister, Mr Oskar Fischer, in Jakarta yesterday, Minister Mokhtar also viewed his opinion that disarmament was one of the primary alternatives in terms of economic consideration. According to Minister Mokhtar, the (?huge) fund, which normally went to the manufacture of various types of arms, could be utilized for promoting the standards of living of people and the stepping up of development in the interest of human race.

Meanwhile, in his address Minister Oskar Fischer said that he shared the views of his Indonesian counterpart, Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, on the need of the world to be free of nuclear arms making possible the maintenance of peace and stability.

The East German foreign minister arrived in Jakarta last Saturday for a 4-day visit to Indonesia at the invitation of Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja. During his stay in this country, he paid a courtesy call on President Suharto on Monday and met with several cabinet ministers and high-ranking officials. An agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and an accord on commercial shipping cooperation between Indonesia and the German Democratic Republic was also signed in Jakarta yesterday by the two foreign ministers. Minister Oskar Fischer left Indonesia today.

MOKHTAR SAYS NO NEW SRV INITIATIVE ON CAMBODIA

BK181144 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 14 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja stressed that he had not officially received any new peace initiatives from Vietnam. As for the remarks of Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach that his country was ready to engage into talks with ASEAN and the PRC, he said his remarks did not touch on the real problem at hand namely the willingness to discuss the Kampuchean problem with the leaders of Kampuchea, because the problem can only be solved by the Kampucheans through talks between them and Vietnam. On his prospective visit to Hanoi, he said he will make it if it is useful.

Mokhtar said this, replying to questions from newsmen at his weekly press meeting on Friday [13 March] on the remarks of Vietnam's foreign minister in a banquet in honour of visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Hanoi recently. "Neither ASEAN and the PRC, as far as I know, are directly involved in the Kampuchean problem. ASEAN has always been ready and prepared to discuss Kampuchea with any party if such discussions would help solve the Kampuchean problem. As for Nguyen Co Thach's willingness to talk to China, that is a matter between him and the PRC" he said. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question whether he would visit Hanoi as a result of the remarks, Mokhtar reacted in a befitting manner. "I have a plan to visit Hanoi and I will make it if I think it is useful. I will not rush in just because of a remark in a banquet. With all my respect to Nguyen Co Thach, I welcome his statement which shows encouraging signs and goodwill on the problem which has been in abeyance for the last eight years." [passage omitted]

KOMPAS VIEWS VIETNAM'S CALL ON ASEAN, PRC

BK191120 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Vietnam's Call on ASEAN and the PRC"]

[Text] Vietnam yesterday reportedly called on ASEAN and the PRC to hold dialogues to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem and turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and friendly cooperation.

The call was made by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach at a dinner banquet in honor of the visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Wednesday night [11 March]. In addition to Vietnam, two other Indochinese countries, namely Laos and Cambodia, will also take part in the dialogue with ASEAN and the PRC. Nguyen Co Thach said that the dialogues should be based on equality and mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the participating countries.

Obviously, there is a good reason for Nguyen Co Thach to make the call in the presence of Shevardnadze, who arrived in Hanoi last Wednesday as part of his Southeast Asian (Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam) and Australia tours. The main reason was to demonstrate Vietnam's and the Soviet Union's uniformity of action.

Under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union appears to have made overtures to the Asian and Pacific countries and Shevardnadze's visit is being used to demonstrate the Soviet Union's intentions, as earlier put forward by Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok.

However, many Asian countries still want to see the Soviet Union show its sincerity, especially by withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan and those of Vietnam from Cambodia. The troop withdrawal will in turn be followed by an opportunity for the Afghan and Cambodian people to appoint their own governments through general elections.

Without such sincerity, most Asian countries, including Indonesia, adopt a very cautious stand toward the Soviet Union and Vietnam's words and actions with regard to Asia.

Up to now, no bright prospects for a solution to the Afghan and Cambodian problems are visible yet. In Afghanistan, those who oppose the presence of Soviet troops have already voiced their unwillingness to set up a coalition government with those backed by the Soviet Union.

As for Vietnam, even though it has promised to withdraw its forces from the country in 1990 (another 3 years only), Hanoi has thus far been unwilling to abandon the Heng Samrin government and the Soviet Union apparently supports Vietnam's stand. This is reflected in the Soviet Union's support for the Heng Samrin government during Shevardnadze's visit to Phnom Penh.

Those countries in Asia, especially in Southeast Asia, which have called for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and an exercise of the Cambodian people's right of self-determination, will probably accept the Heng Samrin government, if it is elected by the Cambodian people themselves. However, this has to be done through free elections, held after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

As far as Hanoi is concerned, the war in Cambodia is indeed a heavy burden because it has to provide huge funds and manpower, which the country really needs for its national reconstruction. Viewed from this context, Nguyen Co Thach's call on ASEAN and the PRC to hold talks on Cambodia seems to be genuine.

However, the Cambodian groups directly involved in the conflict whom Hanoi should have invited to hold talks are those who represent the interests of the Cambodia people. Whatever agreements Hanoi may reach with them, ASEAN and the PRC have no rights to disagree because the Cambodian people have full sovereignty on this matter.

Is Hanoi ready to hold direct talks with these Cambodian groups?

EDITORIAL CALLS SHEVARDNADZE VISIT 'SUCCESSFUL'

BK181155 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 10 Mar 87 p 6

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit"]

[Text] With his generous smile, sympathetic face, and open facial expression, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is the most effective "advertisement" for a policy stressing the openness (glasnost) currently being spearheaded by Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze's visit to Indonesia was not aimed at achieving a specific target. Nor did he come bearing any special messages, such as one for the solution of the Cambodian problem. His visit was simply designed to hold political dialogues with Indonesian leaders to create a better mutual understanding and closer bilateral relations.

Viewed from this standpoint, the Soviet foreign minister's visit can be described as successful.

Both Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok several months ago and Shevardnadze's recent visit indicate that the Soviet Union wants to introduce itself as one of the Asia-Pacific countries.

It is not easy for us in Indonesia to associate the Russian face of Shevardnadze (or does he hail from Georgia?) with that of an Asian.

The Soviet Union considers itself an Asia-Pacific country because of the geographic location of Siberia. The invasion of the Russian tsar into Siberia was one of the most interesting in the history of colonialism in the world. The invasion was not masterminded by the Russian tsar, but by a prominent industrialist family, namely the Stroganov family. The story of the Siberia invasion bore some resemblance to that of the Netherlands into our country, initially spearheaded by the Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie [United East Indies Company]. However, unlike Indonesia, Siberia never had a national independence movement. It did, however, experience rapid progress after Tsarist Russia was replaced by the Soviet Government, which was established after the 1917 October Revolution.

Being familiar with the image of the Soviet Union as a country with a closed and totalitarian political system, we in Indonesia find it difficult to associate the Soviet Union with the concept of openness. For this reason, Shevardnadze's news conference on Saturday 7 March at the Carakaloka Hall in Jakarta explaining the current democratization process in his country was greeted with questions on whether such democratization process also covered the political and ideological areas in that country.

The questions seemed to imply lingering doubts as to what extent Marxist-Leninist ideology is willing to concede to the idea of democratization. Does the democratization process mean a diminishing influence of Lenin and the growing emergence of the original ideas of Karl Marx, especially in his younger days? We all know that Marx was a Western thinker, whose ideas amounted to a reaction and correction of Hegel's theories in the early 19th century in Germany.

Leaving aside the issues of the Soviet Union's place in Asia and democratization, we want to stress once again that Shevardnadze's visit to Indonesia was a successful one.

The two countries shared basic views on efforts to avert a nuclear holocaust, disarmament in general, and a total ban on nuclear weapons to boost development funds, especially in the developing countries. Indonesia's support for these objectives is not specific in the sense that it does not support the stand adopted by any superpowers on these topics.

The two countries' support for the concept of a New International Economic Order reflects a basic attitude against structural injustices existing in the current international economic order. However, the structure of the new economic order and how to attain such a new order might not have been discussed during Shevardnadze's visit to Indonesia.

What Shevardnadze said is true -- the Cambodian problem will never be solved by the Soviet Union and Indonesian foreign ministers holding talks in Jakarta because the conflict can only be solved by the Cambodian people themselves.

As a sovereign nation that waged an independence war in the past, we fully understand the fact that the Soviet Union cannot push Vietnam to pursue certain policies in Cambodia. We hope that political dialogues will be held between Shevardnadze and Lao, Kampuchean, and Vietnamese leaders during his visits to the three countries and similar to the talks held in Jakarta. We believe that such political dialogues will produce positive results.

We also believe that Shevardnadze's successful visit will boost bilateral trade and economic relations as well as cooperation in various areas, including science and technology, in the future.

ARMY CHIEF ON ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT ELECTION

BK140233 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 10 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP) -- Army Chief Lt. Gen. Tri Sutrisno has said that he was not aware of any groups in the country wishing to disrupt the general elections scheduled for April 23.

The three star general told West Java civil and military officials and leaders of social and religious groups at the Siliwangi Military Command's main hall in Bandung late Sunday evening [8 March] that the Indonesian people would resist any attempts to foil the coming elections.

The elections are a national event which prove that Indonesia is a democratic country, Sutrisno said, adding that those who did not use their right to vote would be mistaken.

General Sutrisno, who briefed the West Java leaders without prepared text, said that the country respected differences in opinion as is common in a democratic country.

However, he said that opinions should not deviate from the sole state ideology, Pancasila, and the country's 1945 constitution (UUD 45).

He reminded the audience to preserve the present political system and structure by deterring the infiltration of foreign cultures that could harm Pancasila.

In Jakarta, meanwhile, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. L.B. Murdani said that warnings about extremist threats during the coming elections did not mean that the security situation has deteriorated.

He said that the armed forces considered present security conditions steady and he hoped that the armed forces could maintain stability during and after the elections.

The four star general said Sunday at a national workshop of the ruling group Golkar on final preparations for the elections at the Kridha Bhakti building in Jakarta that direct and indirect security methods have been applied and that would prevent disturbances during the coming elections.

Central Java's Diponegoro Military Command Chief Maj. Gen. Setyana spoke recently of right and left wing extremists who had planned to sabotage the polls in an attempt to topple President Suharto.

Setiyana's remark received serious attention because it coincided with the arrival in Jakarta of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

The two-star Central Java general also spoke of infiltration by underground communist party elements in the armed forces and intellectual organizations.

General Murdani said that the contestants should not hold large rallies since they would be difficult to control. He reminded the contestants that all campaign rallies require preparations well in advance of the event.

The elctions would not be marred by fighting or physical conflicts, he said.

The general then said that the public did not want agitation. The public, he said, wanted to experience appropriate and orderly political activities.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the election coordinating bureau, LPU, Ismail Hassan, said that there would be no special restrictions during the coming general elections.

Hassan said that daily life would remain unchanged for citizens, government officials and civil servants.

Nevertheless, during the elections, the campaign period, the "cooling-down" period and voting day, all conferences, meetings, workshops, scientific research and other activities which involve large groups of people, government officials or which are held in cooperation with government offices should be postponed until April 30.

However, scientific research, aside from social-political studies, held in cooperation with or funded by the government, could proceed as long as opportunity was provided participants to vote on April 23.

DISSIDENTS TERM UPCOMING ELECTION 'AFFRONT TO JUSTICE'

BK191041 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Jakarta, March 20 (AFP) -- A group of leading dissidents Thursday urged the government to openly inform Indonesians of their right to abstain from voting in forthcoming national elections, which they have termed an "affront to justice." The call was made in the form of an open letter from the dissident "Group of 50" to the country's national congress, with copies sent to the president, vice president, parliament, cabinet and media.

It stopped short of calling for an outright boycott of the April 23 elections, but argued that three recently-enacted laws on political parties, the composition of the parliament and the elections themselves were not consistent with the country's constitution. "Anyone who is honest or can read knows that... The sovereignty of the people is paramount... and that voting is a right that can be exercised or not, not a duty which can involve sanctions if not performed," it said.

Government officials are predicting a 90 percent turnout in the five-yearly polls, in which the ruling military-backed Golkar Party says it hopes to gain 70 percent of the vote. The letter was signed by eight men including two retired generals and one former minister who form the working committee of the group, a small collection of retired military officers, intellectuals and former civil servants critical of government policy.

Government spokesmen charge that the group, many of whom have held posts in the government of President Suharto, are "disgruntled has-beens trying to get back into power."

"The possibility of pressure on the common man (to vote) should be underlined," the two-page letter said. "The majority of the people still see going to the polls as a moral obligation, and what is more there is a fear of being penalized by village officials (if they do not)," it said, citing the words of an unnamed former member of the country's Supreme Advisory Council.

In October the group issued a similar letter calling the elections a "waste of energy and funds" and "an affront to the sense of justice of the people." This week's letter, dated Tuesday, was issued as the country's three political parties geared up for the 25-day election campaign starting Tuesday.

Some 94 million Indonesians are registered voters, and the high turnout predictions are based on the showings in the past two general elections.

Observers here saw the dissidents' letter as aimed mainly at voters in Jakarta, where in the past one form of dissent has been casting a "white" or invalid vote as a form of protest.

Jakarta authorities have limited each political party participating in the elections to eight days of campaigning, with each party allotted different days, the daily SUARA PEMBARUAN said Thursday, citing a city spokesman. There will be no campaigning on March 31, it added. The ban applies only to Jakarta, which is classified as a province.

MALAYSIASIGNIFICANCE OF SHEVARDADZE VISIT VIEWED

BK171403 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 2-week tour of Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the three Indochinese states by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, is a curious subject of much informed comment and discussion. Of course, it is only to be expected that a superpower like the Soviet Union will have numerous interests in all parts of the world and therefore, periodic visits by Kremlin decisionmakers are a part of Soviet diplomacy.

The six ASEAN states had hoped that the Shevardnadze mission would in some way have relevance to the long-term hope of an early political settlement to the crisis in Kampuchea. Mr Shevardnadze's talks in Jakarta and Bangkok and his official statements in Hanoi and Vientiane have, however, only confirmed the more pessimistic perceptions of observers in this part of the world.

It is now manifestly clear that the Soviet Union will only take a different stand on the Kampuchean issue if the Vietnamese Government wants it to do so. Moscow will not in any way use its influence to persuade Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. In other words, the Vietnamese may carry on with the present policy of colonializing Kampuchea and using its resources in furtherance of Vietnamese interests.

The consequences of the continuing stalemate in Kampuchea are significant and far-reaching. Vietnam will remain quite isolated from the political and economic mainstream of Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union's domination of the economies of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea will continue and will probably be increased in the months to come. In return, Vietnam can be confidently expected to provide the Soviet Union with all manner of cooperation that may be demanded by Soviet military planners.

The Soviet presence in the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions will probably be considerably enhanced. What is particularly disappointing to the ASEAN people is that the present Soviet indifference to ASEAN aspiration is a contrast to the recent overture by Mr Gorbachev to the American administration for reduction of nuclear missiles in Europe. That move has been widely hailed as an act of statesmanship. Just as tension can be reduced considerably in Europe by a decision to decrease the supply of nuclear and conventional weapons, so too in Southeast Asia, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops can be a great contribution to peace and stability.

The path that ASEAN members have chosen to follow is a marked contrast to what the three Indochina states, and particularly Vietnam, have taken.

The ASEAN states have opted for the highest possible rate of economic growth and social progress so that their people can have better living standards. With the communist Indochinese countries, it is a different story. The economic stagnation and political repression are so great that they may prefer to leave their homeland for the outside world even if they have to brave all kinds of hazards in the South China Sea.

Malaysia will continue to press for a negotiated settlement in Kampuchea and with its ASEAN partners, it will work for peace and stability in this region.

MINISTER WARNS AGAINST U.S.-BASED CULT

BK161433 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The Islamic Religious Affairs Division in the Prime Minister's Department has detected a foreign-based group that is trying to lure the people to join their faith by promising material benefits. Disclosing this today, the minister in the prime minister's department, Datuk Dr Yusuf Nor, said the group distributed pamphlets in the country, promising material wealth and physical strength to its members. The group also claimed that those who believe in its faith will settle their debts and cure their illnesses.

Speaking to reporters after opening a course on Orang Asli [aborigine people] communications in (Kelana Jaya), Selangor, Datuk Yusuf reminded Muslims to be wary of the group's activities and not to be easily influenced by the group's teachings. The group is believed to be based in Michigan, the United States.

SARAWAK STATE ASSEMBLY OFFICIALLY DISSOLVED

BK130730 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Sarawak state election office today received notification of the dissolution of the state Legislative Assembly. Secretary of the assembly, Mr Lim Kian Hock, presented the document on the dissolution to State Election Officer Abang Rojali Abang Haji Paling at his office in Kuching. The dissolution was announced by Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Haji Taib Mahmud in Kuching yesterday [12 Mar]. It paves the way for elections to be held within 90 days of the date of dissolution. The last state election was held in December 1983.

Leaders of three of the four Sarawak National Front component parties have (?praised) the decision of Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Taib Mahmud in advising the State Ruler Datuk Patinggi Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Mohamed Noor to dissolve the state Legislative Assembly. The three parties are the Sarawak United People's Party, SUPP, the Sarawak National Party, SNAP, and Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak, PBB. The fourth party in the ruling National Front is Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak, PBDS, and Datuk Patinggi Taib, who is Sarawak chairman of the front, said it is automatically out of his team in the election. SUPP Secretary General Datuk Dr Wong Soon Kai described the decision by the chief minister to go to the pool as very important and timely.

HOME MINISTRY READY TO HELP SURRENDERED COMMUNISTS

BK191529 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs is prepared to extend any assistance to the 66 members of the outlawed Communist Party of Malaya, CPM -- all Malaysian citizens -- reported to have surrendered in Thailand.

The deputy minister, Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub, said his ministry is prepared to help the 66 return to Malaysia and enjoy society if its assistance is permitted by the Defense Ministry.

He was commenting on a Bangkok news report which [word indistinct] a Thai major general concerning the mass surrender of 89 members of the 8th Regiment of the CPM last week. A spokesman of the Thai armed forces in southern Thailand, Colonel (Bachon Chawansin), was also reported to have said 66 of them were Malaysian citizens.

PMA BOMBING POSSIBLY 'PART OF ANOTHER COUP PLOT'

HK200845 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 20 Mar 87

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Baguio, Philippines, March 20 (AFP) -- Armed Forces Chief, General Fidel Ramos, said Friday that probers were looking into the possibility that the bombing of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) here was part of another coup plot against President Corason Aquino.

Military and police forces, including an extra battalion from Manila, have gone on maximum alert in preparation for Mrs. Aquino's arrival Sunday, to deliver her speech at the academy's graduation exercises, official sources said.

Communist rebels meanwhile, accused military men loyal to deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos and sacked Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile of planting the bomb that killed four people and wounded 43 others at the PMA grandstand on the spot where Mrs. Aquino is to deliver her speech.

"We are looking into all angles and leaving no stone unturned to uncover the truth," Gen. Ramos told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE at the military headquarters here when asked about press reports that the bombing could be part of another military coup plot.

Gen. Ramos, who was blocked three coup attempts against the Aquino government, stressed that "at this stage of the investigation, there are still no conclusive findings." He added that this is "because the investigators are very busy interviewing a lot of people, starting with those from within the PMA as well as analyzing the physical evidence."

Brigadier General Jesus de la Cruz, the military regional commander who is heading the probe, said several persons including PMA personnel and military explosives experts had been under surveillance in connection with the incident. "But we are still facing a blank wall," he said.

Military sources present during a closed door briefing for Mrs. Aquino during her short visit here Thursday to inspect the bombing site and visit the injured said she was told by investigators that pro-Marcos and pro-Enrile military factions, along with communist rebels, were the three main suspects.

But the communist-led rebel alliance, the National Democratic Front (NDF), said in a statement released here Friday that "Marcos and Enrile factions of the Armed Forces ... masterminded this," adding that the Aquino government was using the NDF as a scapegoat for the bombing. The NDF also said that it was "utterly illogical" to blame them for the bombing since their military army, the New People's Army (NPA) had no guerrillas in Baguio.

Brig. Gen. de la Cruz, reacting to the statement said: "They are free to make their own pronouncements, but we were not accusing them in the first place. We are not pointing to any group in particular at this stage." But he denied the NDF's claim that no NPA guerrillas were stationed in Baguio.

Brig. Gen. de la Cruz, a PMA graduate, said the bombing would help unify the Armed Forces, "because it is an assault already on the very institution where most of these professionals come from."

He said there was "some sort of laxity," in the PMA compound because the grandstand was suppose to guarded round the clock so that, "the guy who placed it is probably known to the guards." But he said no academy guards had been placed under arrest and that two construction workers involved in preparing the grandstand for the graduation were released after questioning.

Workers Friday rushed the repair work on the grandstand. Half of its roof was destroyed in the explosion.

Brig. Gen. de la Cruz said that the bomb was apparently made from three components: A Soviet-made B-40 rocket and U.S.-made 60 millimeter and 81 millimeter mortars. Presidential Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno had said here Thursday, that only B-40 rockets were used for the home-made bomb. The chief investigator said they had not yet determined whether the bomb was set off by a timer or a remote-control device.

U.S. Experts Assisting Probe

HK200229 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] A 20-pound Soviet antitank bomb known as a B-40 was the main device used in blasting the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] grandstand in Baguio City last Wednesday. Two other bombs were used -- one, a U.S.-made 81-mm bomb, and a local mortar shell. This was reported to President Aquino yesterday [19 March] by probers looking into the incident.

There are no principal suspects yet in the bombing which killed 4 persons and seriously wounded 43 others. However, investigators said communist guerrillas, disgruntled soldiers, or loyalists could be behind the bombing. The contractors and workers who were involved in the renovation of the grandstand before the incident are being questioned by the military. The probers refused to give any definite information regarding the probe but they said all angles are being looked into.

A special task force under Brigadier General Jesus de la Cruz of the Ilocos Regional Command is conducting the investigation. Giving them assistance are the PC-CIS [Philippine Constabulary-Criminal Investigation Service], the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation], the Baguio police, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] explosives ordnance team, AFP intelligence agents, and U.S. explosives experts from Clark Air Base.

NPA, NDF Disown Involvement

HK201013 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] The New People's Army, the military arm of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines, yesterday disowned Wednesday's bomb explosion at the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] grounds which killed four persons and wounded 43 civilians and military officers.

"Of course it is not true," the NPA general staff spokesman Tito de la Paz said, denying Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete's claim that the rebels plotted the bombing.

The National Democratic Front [NDF] in Northern Luzon, meanwhile, also disowned responsibility for the bomb blast, saying it was "illogical to blame the NPA and any other organization in the national democratic revolutionary movement."

"What are the revolutionaries to gain from an act that will yield neither guns nor propaganda mileage? There are as yet no NPA units operating within or around the perimeters of Baguio City contrary to what the military wishes the people to think," the NDF-Northern Luzon said.

An NDF statement said alleged NPA units in the city have become the convenient excuse of the military to suppress the growing democratic movement. The statement added they also use this to cover their inability to solve the deteriorating peace and order which has been worsened substantially by their own undisciplined soldiers and the rackets controlled by their own officers.

"There are, however, active elements of the Marcos and Enrile factions in the military in the city and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the Aquino government fully know but hesitate to disarm and arrest them," the statement said.

De la Paz said it was not impossible that Iletto's statement blaming the NPA was a "cover-up of the real culprits who apparently have an easy access to the military camp and are familiar with it, being able to plant a bomb on a spot high above the ground."

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [Bayan-New Nationalist Alliance] director Jose Virgilio Bautista said it is quite strange that many of the personnel of the PMA theorized that it is an inside job.

Horacio Morales, Partido ng Bayan [People's Party] candidate, said the bombing is a despicable act and the government must investigate the matter.

De la Paz said the "military not only wants to discredit and malign the New People's Army and the revolutionary movement but also to psyche the people into fearing the NPA, and lead to the restoration of fascist dictatorship."

The NPA spokesman accused the military of trying to sow intrigues and create an atmosphere of fear. He said more incidents like this "are expected and the NPAs will be made a convenient scapegoat."

OFFICIAL REACTION TO ARMITAGE INSURGENCY REMARKS

Aquino 'Obviously Peeved'

HK201003 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 20 (AFP) -- The Philippine Government reacted strongly Friday to a statement by a U.S. official who said Manila lacked a comprehensive plan to combat the country's thriving communist insurgency.

Assistant U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Armitage "has no business shooting his mouth off" regarding Philippine policies, President Corazon Aquino's spokesman Teodoro Benigno told reporters here. He said Mrs. Aquino was "obviously peeved" by Mr. Armitage's statement in Washington Tuesday that the Aquino government had no masterplan to curb the communist rebellion but merely clung "to the forlorn hope that the insurgents will fade from the scene."

Observers here said the U.S. official's comments to a congressional subcommittee appeared to echo the assessment of Philippine Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos who has said many in government "do not really understand the insurgency problem."

Mr. Benigno said Mrs. Aquino was obviously angry while discussing Mr. Armitage's statements with a group of junior military officers who called on her at the Presidential Palace. "All the officers deeply resented the statement of Mr. Armitage," he said.

Mr. Armitage's comments appeared to differ from those of the U.S. State Department which said later that it was satisfied with the counter-insurgency efforts made by Manila. The United States maintains two of its biggest overseas military bases in the Philippines, its former colony.

"The president has taken a very forthright stand in the battle against the insurgency," Mr. Benigno said, adding that Mr. Armitage's assessment "is his own business." He said Mrs. Aquino considers economic recovery the "major thrust" of her two-pronged program, which involved a military effort and an offer of general amnesty to the rebels.

Asked what the president's assessment of her counter-insurgency plan was, Mr. Benigno said it was Mrs. Aquino's firm belief that "a successful economic program (will be) able to roll back the insurgency."

Mrs. Aquino forged a 60-day cease-fire with the rebels last year and opened peace negotiations, but the talks stalled due to disagreements on the agenda and fighting resumed after the truce ended February 8. Nearly 400 people have died since then, according to military reports.

Meanwhile, the main right-wing opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) urged the government Friday to intensify its counter-insurgency campaign. "It's high time the government forces went on the offensive instead of being constantly on the defensive," GAD Chairman Vicente Puyat said in a statement. "The government forces should be engaging all-out war to bring the 18-year-old insurgency to an end," he added.

Laurel Disputes Armitage

OW200620 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 20 KYODO -- Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Salvador Laurel said Friday that the Philippines has a comprehensive counter-insurgency plan contrary to a claim made by U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage.

"I don't agree with Armitage that we don't have an anti-insurgency plan. Probably, he does not think that it is as good as he wants it to be. But it's a matter of opinion," Laurel told reporters shortly after addressing soldiers in Rosario, Cavite on the occasion of the 90th Armed Forces anniversary.

The vice president was apparently referring to contradictory positions taken by ranking U.S. officials over efforts being made by the government of President Corazon Aquino to combat the 18-year old communist-led insurgency.

Armitage told the House East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee Tuesday that the one year-old Aquino government has "regrettably" failed to develop a comprehensive antirebel plan. But State Department official Gaston Sigur, a recent Manila visitor, took a different tack when he told the same forum that Manila was meeting the problem "realistically and effectively."

Laurel said it was too early to judge whether the government's antiguerrilla plan is effective or not. "Right now, we are still fighting. We are still applying this anti-insurgency plan. If it succeeds then nobody can say that it's not effective," he added.

Close to 400 people, many of them civilians, have been killed since fighting resumed between New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and government troops following the end of a 60-day truce February 8.

Joker Arroyo Comments

HK200637 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 20 (AFP) -- President Corazon Aquino's chief aide Friday denied U.S. Defense Department contentions that her government had no comprehensive plan to combat the thriving communist insurgency here.

Joker Arroyo, Mrs. Aquino's executive secretary, reacting to statements made by Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage, said "We have a program, so I would prefer to listen to (Philippine Defense) Secretary (Rafael) Iletto's judgement rather than Mr. Armitage." However, when pressed for data on the plan, he said, "It's a program, that's it."

Mr. Armitage had said in Washington last Tuesday, that Mrs. Aquino had no masterplan for counterinsurgency but merely clung, "to the forlorn hope that the insurgents will fade from the scene." However, the State Department, in an apparent rift with the Defense Department, later said that they were satisfied with Philippine counterinsurgency efforts.

Last December, Mrs. Aquino forged a 60-day cease-fire with communist insurgents here and opened peace negotiations with them. The negotiations stalled due to disagreements between the two sides and fighting resumed when the cease-fire expired on February 8. More than 300 people have been killed since then.

The government is currently pursuing a policy of trying to forge regional cease-fires with insurgent groups as well as offering rebels amnesty and economic benefits. Mrs. Aquino has also given the military the signal to go after the communist insurgents.

AQUINO CANDIDATES TO HONOR U.S. BASES AGREEMENT

HK200627 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 20 (AFP) -- President Corazon Aquino's Senate candidates will support her pledge to respect an agreement on two U.S. military bases here and to keep her options open on their future after the accord expires in 1991, two Senate candidates said Friday.

Rene Saguisag and Ernesto Maceda, two of Mrs. Aquino's candidates for the Senate elections on May 11, said that their party platform was to stick to Mrs. Aquino's previously stated position to keep "our options open," on the bases' future after 1991.

Mrs. Aquino has pledged to support the bases treaty and to keep her options open on their future after the agreement expires in 1991.

Leonardo Perez, Senate candidate of the New Society Movement (KBL), the party of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, said that the KBL wanted to negotiate for better terms, such as those "given to the governments of Turkey, Greece and Spain, for similar bases in these countries."

The Philippines hosts Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, both near here, the two largest U.S. military installations outside the U.S. Manila receives in return 500 million U.S. dollars each year in military and economic aid over five years.

Horacio Morales, a Senate candidate of the leftist Party of the People (PNB) reiterated his party's stand for the immediate abrogation of the Bases Agreement. He also said that an industrial and agricultural development programme should be made for the utilization of the land within the bases, as well as livelihood packages for those dependent on their income from the bases.

Regarding the monetary compensation that would be lost if the bases were to be removed, Mr. Morales said: "If you just plant the (area within) the bases, the money we get from rental, can be compensated."

The main right-wing opposition party, the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) has also said that they would call for the removal of the bases if the Filipino people desired it. The GAD has also said that the retention of the bases should be linked to the industrialization of the country.

Some 30,000 families would be economically dislocated and 106 million pesos (5.17 million dollars) in tax revenues from Filipino workers employed in the bases would be lost if the U.S. bases were to be removed in 1991, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) reported here Friday.

Opposition Stance Reported

HK191047 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 19 (AFP) -- President Corazon Aquino must be prepared to end an agreement on U.S. military bases in the Philippines in 1991 if the terms for its removal are rejected by the people, the rightwing opposition said Thursday. The Philippine left meanwhile announced that it would work for the immediate dismantling of the U.S. Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base if its candidates were elected to the Senate in May.

The Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), the main opposition party contesting 24 Senate and 200 lower house seats in the May 11 national polls, said compensation for the bases should ensure the country's full industrialization by the year 2000. An agreement on the maintenance of these bases on Philippine soil in exchange for 500 million dollars in military and economic aid over five years expires in 1991, but the agreement comes under review next year.

"The Philippines must be prepared to end the bases agreement with the United States by 1991, if the terms of its renewal or extension are not acceptable to the Filipino people," the GAD said in its party platform published in a Manila newspaper Thursday. However, if the government contemplates an interim arrangement to keep the bases for a reasonable term, "then their continuation should be linked to the country's accelerated industrialization" under a "Marshall plan" to rehabilitate the economy, it added.

Clark and Subic guard vital oil pipelines of the West and serve as a counterbalance to Soviet military presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

The bases question has become a key issue in the current electoral campaign because of a provision in the new Constitution that after 1991, foreign military bases will not be allowed in the country except under a treaty approved by the Senate, and, when Congress requires, ratified in a referendum. The charter also states that Manila, "consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory." Washington neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons in Clark and Subic.

President Corason Aquino, whose term ends in mid-1992, has said she will respect the bases agreement until 1991 and keep her options open after that.

The seven candidates of the leftist People's Party (PNB) will "flesh out" the Constitution's provisions if they are elected, and work for the dismantling of Clark and Subic bases, former communist guerrilla leader Bernabe Buscayno, one of PNB's candidates, told a news conference.

The GAD position however appeared to contradict a previous statement by former defense chief and GAD candidate Juan Ponce Enrile that he was not prepared to discuss cash in relation to security, and that Manila should maintain the bases until it had enough money to provide for its own security.

The GAD also charged that Manila had no master plan against the communist insurgency. "In the absence of such conceptual integrity, no unified security vision can emerge," the GAD platform said, criticizing the government's attempts to seek a cease-fire and give rebels amnesty which it said is "likely to lead to a stalemate."

BUSCAYNO DENIES SAYING AQUINO 'JUST LIKE' MARCOS

HK171255 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Mar 87 pp 1, 10

[By Roy de Guzman]

[Excerpts] Partido ng Bayan [PNB -- People's Party] senatorial candidate Bernabe Buscayno yesterday denied saying President Aquino has become like deposed President Marcos during the proclamation of PNB candidates last Saturday night at Plaza Sta. Cruz.

Buscayno singled out the INQUIRER and this reporter for supposedly coming up with a distorted interpretation of a speech he delivered in Pilipino.

He told a press conference held at a Quezon City restaurant that he never uttered the statement "Walang Pinagkaiba si Pangulong Aquino kay Marcos (President Aquino is no different from Marcos)" as an INQUIRER headline read.

(The INQUIRER story quoted the former New People's Army commander as saying that the Aquino administration has become a "replica" of the Marcos regime.) [passage omitted]

He said that while he expresses fear of anti-democratic elements out to sabotage the president's good government drive, he never doubted her sincerity to uphold the masses' basic interests. [passage omitted]

He further said that Aquino's government, as past Philippines governments, failed to implement thoroughgoing changes.

Insiders said Buscayno issued the denial in response to numerous queries from Tarlaquenos and friends in government on whether he really was becoming "critical" of Aquino's one-year rule.

A staunch Aquino backer, Don Chino Roces -- who also heads the renamed Coalition for the Advancement of the People's Mandate -- has endorsed Buscayno's senatorial bid.

Buscayno said that during the poll campaign, he and six other PNB bets will not resort to "mud-slinging" and would instead highlight "pro-people" issues.

He said he himself was accused for several times by his colleagues in the Left of being "pro-Cory" and of "rightist tendencies" for advocating support for the Aquino regime and voting "yes" in the last plebiscite.

Buscayno again is personally advocating support for at least five administration candidates; Jovito Salonga, Rene Saguisag, Augusto Sanchez, Aquilino Pimentel and Wigberto Tanada. He said he is asking those in the PNB to make official its endorsement of the five Aquino hand-picked bets.

The PNB expects at least 4.5 million voters influenced by various left-leaning organizations to support its congressional and senatorial candidates.

On the insurgency problem, Buscayno said a comprehensive government program attacking the roots of poverty and unrest is needed to stop the growth of the communist movement.

This would involve, he said, the implementation of a genuine land reform and nationalist industrialization, and involving the people in policy-making and in the peace process. [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT-MNLF NEGOTIATIONS REACH 'IMPASSE'

HK171155 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[By staff member Raisse E. Robles]

[Text] Zamboanga City -- Government and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) negotiators have apparently reached an impasse on their talks for a solution to the Mindanao problem.

But, at the same time, both sides agreed to remove the element of confrontation and continue with their negotiations until May, when the 90-day truce period expires.

Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, chief government negotiator, said both sides agreed to form a common working panel that would be "informal and flexible, tolerant and creative" and no longer adversarial.

The impasse was reached when MNLF chief negotiator Habib Hashim called as "generally unacceptable" the government offer to give wider powers to local officials in Mindanao.

The MNLF is seeking full autonomy for 23 provinces in Mindanao, Palawan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan Islands.

According to Hashim the new government offer was "something even less than the commonwealth" form granted by the Americans to the Filipinos in 1935.

Hashim refused to elaborate further due to an agreement not to reveal to media the issues discussed. The agreement was reached earlier by both sides during the third round of closed-door talks held here last week.

However, another Muslim negotiator, who requested anonymity, said the government seemed unwilling to grant a federal system to Mindanao.

During the talks, the government apparently highlighted the need for an economic solution through reconstruction and development and downplayed the political solution to the problem.

Hashim confirmed this, adding, however, that "definitely, we will not accept mere economic solutions. We want a political solution through full autonomy because this is the key to economic solutions."

The government also reportedly told MNLF negotiators that their request for autonomy to 23 provinces was non-negotiable.

"We are a little bit confused," Hashim said. He recalled then government negotiator Agapito "Butz" Aquino had repeatedly said that "only independence is non-negotiable. Everything else is negotiable."

The government also rejected the MNLF request for President Aquino to issue an executive order granting autonomy to the South. This is in lieu of a congressional act as provided for in the 1986 Constitution.

Pelaez cited a legal opinion prepared by the University of the Philippines Law Center, that an executive order might expose the president to possible impeachment proceedings since this might violate the Constitution.

Both the government and the MNLF panels admitted having committed mistakes. The government had entered the talks without knowing what it could offer, government sources said.

On the other hand, the MNLF had agreed to the talks without first ascertaining what the government negotiators were really empowered to do, MNLF sources said.

MNLF LEADERS WARN OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES

HK191308 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Marawi, Philippines, March 19 (AFP) -- Moslem separatist leaders urged fellow rebels here Thursday to reject the government's autonomy proposal for Moslems in the southern Philippines and warned of renewed fighting if Manila did not relax its position.

"Something will happen after 50 days" if nothing substantial comes out of the current peace talks, Saiphom, a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader, told a pro-MNLF rally in this southern city Thursday. Some 1,500 unarmed members and sympathizers of the MNLF held a rally here to commemorate the 19th anniversary of a massacre, allegedly by security forces, of a group of Moslem military recruits on an island near Manila.

The rebel leader did not elaborate, but two other MNLF leaders in the region warned of "resumption of hostilities after 50 days" if Manila did not relax its position concerning autonomy for minority Moslems in the south.

MNLF commanders Abdul Jabbar Panungtungan and Solitario, interviewed in this city's outskirts, called for the rejection of the government's proposal that limits areas to be granted autonomy to "Moslem Mindanao."

The MNLF had previously called for autonomy in Mindanao and four other southern islands, and the retention of the MNLF's guerrilla force to become the police force of the region comprising a third of the country's land area.

The two rebel leaders accused the government of President Corazon Aquino Thursday of "deliberately delaying" granting their demands. The two leaders, who both hold the rank of brigadier general in the insurgent army, said the MNLF was militarily prepped and if the rest of the 50 days lapses without results, "we will resort to means other than the negotiating table."

Mr Panungtungan, also known here as Commander Narra, charged that the Aquino government was insincere because it "failed to implement land reform, industrialization and did not demilitarize the country." Government negotiators with the Moslems were unavailable for comment in Manila Thursday.

7TH MANILA AREA POLICE OFFICER MURDERED

HK200309 Hong Kong AFP in English 0306 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 20 (AFP) -- Two unidentified young men shot dead a traffic policeman in downtown Manila early Friday and stole his service pistol before escaping, police said here.

Corporal Florendo Sahagun, 45, who was shot three times in the head of two unidentified young men Friday, is the seventh law and order official to have been shot dead in the streets of the capital during the past month, police said. The assailants took the dead man's .45 calibre pistol before fleeing.

Radio reports said that the policeman was apparently handing out a traffic ticket when he was shot dead in front of a gasoline station in downtown Manila.

Police would only say that the attackers were in their early 20's and that one was carrying a pistol.

An urban liquidation squad of the communist New People's Army (NPA) has been blamed for the killing of six other law and order officials in similar circumstances here during the past month.

The NPA has denied involvement in the killings.

CLASH KILLS 18 TROOPS; NPA CASUALTIES 'HEAVIER'

HK200141 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] A report from Zamboanga City says an open battle between government troops and a large force of NPA rebels raged the whole day yesterday [19 March] in the hinterlands of Bonifacio town in Misamis Occidental. Initial reports reaching the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters in Zamboanga City said 18 soldiers have been killed and 2 others were wounded, but NPA casualties were reported much heavier as bodies were seen strewn all over the battle area.

The fighting broke out at 8 am when troops of the 10th Infantry Battalion under Lieutenant Jose Savellano engaged the enemy force. The Army troops were on a probing mission when they chanced upon the heavy concentration of rebels. The troops bombarded the enemy with mortars and artillery. As of 5 pm yesterday, the fight was still raging. The battle is going on in a forested area in barangay (Canao-canaco), Bonifacio, at the boundary of Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental.

8 KILLED IN MASBATE; OFFICER TO PARADE 90 COFFINS

HK201007 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Legazpi, Philippines, March 20 (AFP) -- Five communist insurgents and three members of a security patrol were killed in a clash on the central island of Masbate, the military said here Friday. The fighting occurred Wednesday near Palanas, a coastal town in Masbate, some 400 kilometers (240 miles) southeast of Manila, military spokesmen in this nearby city said.

A security patrol engaged a 100-man New People's Army (NPA) band in a firefight, leaving the town police chief dead, along with a policeman, a government militiaman and five rebels, they added. Nearly 400 people have been killed since the rebels ended a 60-day cease-fire with government forces last month, according to official figures.

Meanwhile, a military commander in Davao said Friday he planned to parade around the southern city Wednesday some 90 coffins containing the remains of alleged NPA victims exhumed around Davao.

This is to "show the world that we Davaoenos are Christians and don't want to be ruled by the godless communists," Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida told reporters. The march is to end with a mass and a rally where a former NPA guerrilla will speak on how the victims were executed, he added.

345 DEAD, 200 WOUNDED SINCE END OF CEASE-FIRE

HK200443 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] There have been 246 insurgency-related incidents in the country since the cease-fire ended, with 345 people listed dead and 200 others wounded. The Department of National Defense released these statistics covering the period from February 8 to March 18. [Words indistinct] included (?18) civilians, (?169) NPA rebels and 95 military, police, and Civilian Home Defense Force personnel. According to the defense report, the military suffered its biggest [word indistinct] Tuesday when 19 other troopers were killed by about 300 NPA guerrillas in barangay Ibabang Bakung in Quezon Province.

'MASSIVE' DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF VOTERS FEARED

HK190905 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Mar 87 p 20

[Text] An aide to Vice-President Salvador Laurel yesterday warned that over 80 percent of registered voters may fail to vote within the allotted 10 hours in the coming election.

Lawyer Avelino V. Cruz, a general counsel of the vice-president, said such massive "disenfranchisement" may be a "fatal blow" to the credibility of the country's first election. "The May 11 election elicits great expectations among the people and the outside world. It is supposed to set the standard for a clean and honest process," Cruz said.

Assuming an average of 250 registered voters per precinct with each voter taking 15 minutes to vote, some 62.5 hours are needed by these voters to cast their ballots on time, Cruz pointed out.

Based on this assumption, only 40 voters per precinct or 16 percent of voters in a precinct would be able to finish voting in 10 hours, Cruz said. "Voters may just decide to go home instead of waiting through the night. Or else, the result could be organized chaos of voters jostling for their chance to get in, or some may be left to the mercy of scheming politicians taking advantage of the confusion," he said.

Laurel's aide called on the Commission on Elections to conduct an election simulation program involving time and motion studies of the voting.

He proposed as alternative remedies increasing the number of booths, expanding the staff to attend to voters in each precinct, continuous voting, or splitting of precincts.

LAWYER SAYS U.S. BASE GUARDS ASSAULTED YOUTHS

HK190951 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 19 (AFP) -- Seven Filipino scavengers who had entered the perimeter of a U.S. military base here were assaulted by U.S. military guards and set upon by their dogs even after they had surrendered, a lawyer here charged Thursday.

U.S. Embassy spokesmen here could not immediately confirm the report.

One teenage boy had entered the massive Clark Air Base, in the northern Philippines, to forage for vegetables Monday, when caught by the guards, attorney Elly Velez Pamatong told a press conference here. Although he had surrendered and been handcuffed, the guards struck him and set their dogs on him and he was bitten, Mr. Pamatong said.

The next day, six other youths were caught while scavenging for scrap iron and were also beaten by both U.S. guards and Philippine military personnel who were attached to the base and attacked by dogs even after they had raised their hands in surrender, Mr. Pamatong charged. Mr. Pamatong, who is running as an independent candidate in May senatorial elections, said he intended to file civil and criminal charges against the U.S. military personnel allegedly involved.

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